SPORTS REVIEW

Wrestling

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THE BATTLE OF THE BELTS II

False Alarm!

HULK HOGAN RISES FROM THE ASHES OF PHOENIX!

10 REASONS WHY THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS ARE BETTER THAN THE ROAD WARRIORS

By Jim Cornette

Flying High Again:

WHY DO THE EXPERTS CONTINUE TO UNDERRATE THE FABULOUS FREEBIRDS?

SPORTS REVIEW INTERVIEW:
TERRY TAYLOR

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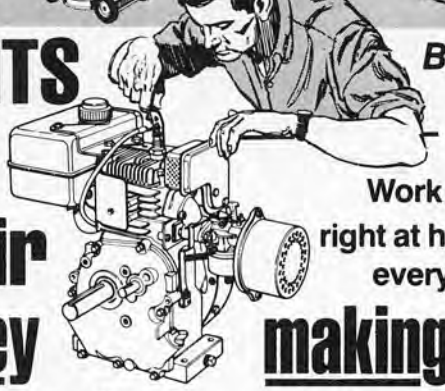

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Ques. *If yours is such a great business, how come it has never been done before?*

Ans. *Like all great ideas, that's the first question they ask. Your customers will ask it too. Perhaps it was too simple to think of. But make no mistake, it required a considerable investment in time and money for us to be able to bring it to you this way.*

Ques. *When's the best time of the year to get into this sort of business?*

Ans. *Any time. It is a 12-month-a-year necessity and as good in the heat of summer as the dead of winter. It's always big-profit time for you.*

Ques. *You say rich and poor are my customers. How can poor persons afford to pay so much?*

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Ques. *How long will it take me to get started earning big money. I need it now and don't want to wait for "some time in the near future"?*

Ans. *One hour after you receive our kit, you can pocket your first cash money. In fact, if you don't start making good money your first day, you can sell your kit right back to us for a full refund.*

Ques. *How about my friends and relatives? Can I contact them? Are they good prospects?*

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Once you get started people will come to you!

We wish we could tell you everything . . . then we KNOW FOR SURE you'll respond enthusiastically and immediately. But if we did, there are a number of drawbacks. (1) It would require too much space in this ad. (2) It might affect our ability to limit the number of persons using our idea. (3) We believe having our kit in your hands and evaluating the contents is worth a thousand words in an advertisement like this one which you might read on the run in competition with the interesting contents of this publication. We'd rather send you the kit after receiving your $10. Then we know you will give our idea,all the thought it deserves, knowing that your money is only held temporarily, pending your wholehearted approval of our program.

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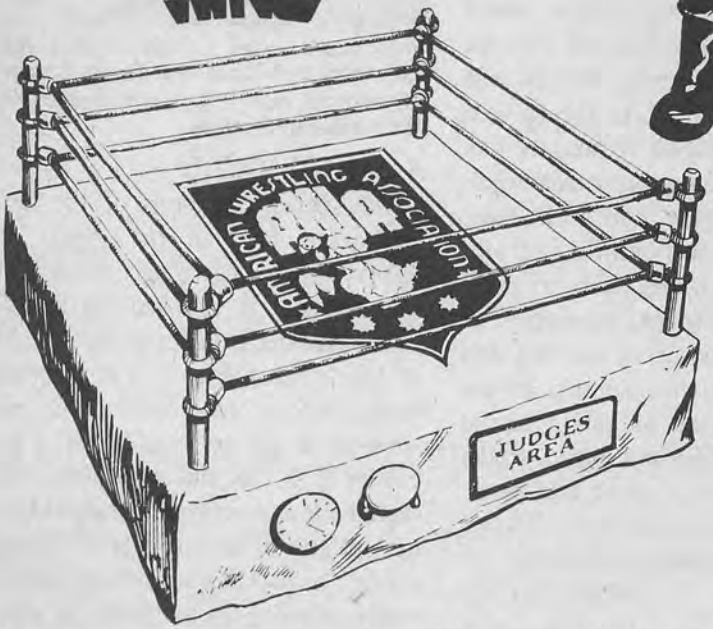

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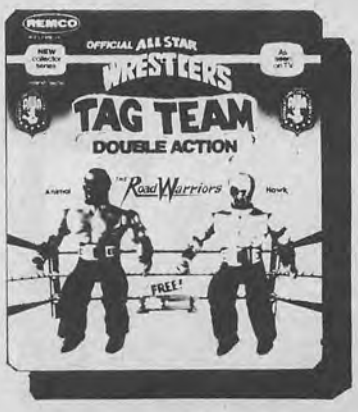

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Rick Rude, applying an abdominal stretch on David Peterson, is ready to defend his World Class title against the best in the sport, writes Larry Hecht.

RUDE AWAKENING

As the strength and power of Rick Rude unfolds its behemoth possibilities, the wrestling world stands in awe; menaced and intimidated by his sublime grace, envious and worshiping of his magnificent physique. Can it not be but God's will that the World Class association has created its own world title at this juncture? Why did they not do it last year and elevate their favorite sons, the Von Erichs, to the vaunted position? They waited because the dictates of fate had not tilted their hand. They waited because, until Rick Rude, their association had been littered with pretenders, men whose claims to greatness were preposterous, insulting.

Rick Rude, avatar of the '80s and forever, breathes championship oxygen into limbs designed to punish mortal men, demolish flesh and blood. Rude, a marbled blend of speed and stone, cannot be bested. He will rule his kingdom fairly, but with an iron fist.

LARRY HECHT
San Diego, CA

TICKED AT NICK'S LICK

Brian Tevella's condemnation of Nick Patrick in the April '86 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling* ("So What?") was excessively cruel and vicious. Patrick is just a guy trying to make a living. Granted, he might not be a world beater in the ring, but at least he's making an honest effort. Patrick was the best referee Georgia ever had, and although he doesn't seem to be much as a wrestler, he's still a tough competitor. Tevella's last comment, about preferring to read stories by Randy Savage and Ric Flair, betrays how little intelligence he has. Savage and Flair can say nothing we haven't heard a thousand times before. Patrick's is a story rarely told and it's of real interest to fans everywhere.

EARL KRAM
Santa Fe, NM

While reader Helen Overstreet does not agree with Matt Brock that Randy Savage will dethrone Hulk Hogan, she appreciates Matt's excellent analysis.

A SAVAGE TRUTH

Matt Brock's synopsis of the Hogan-Savage feud in the April '86 *Sports Review Wrestling* ("The War The Hulkster Is Destined To Lose") was a flawless critique, surely one of ol' Matt's best pieces yet. I don't know what Matt was drinking that day, but whatever it was he should keep a hiball of it by his side constantly. His elegant prose described a Hulk Hogan new to most of his fans. He let Hulkamaniacs in on Hulk's inevitable demise gently, allowing us to retain the regal splendor Hogan's reign brought to us.

Personally, I disagree with Matt Brock. I feel Hogan will be champion for many years to come, but it's diffi-

(Continued on page 47)

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THE TATTLER

SPARTANBURG, SC: A 3,000 signature petition, sent special delivery to the office of NWA President Bob Geigel in Kansas City, capped a week of protest here demanding a reversal to the decision that gave Tully Blanchard his National title winning victory over Dusty Rhodes.

While fans have unanimously condemned the match as a mockery, NWA President Geigel has refused to comment, saying only that he needs to review the match films. When he does, this is what he will see:

As Rhodes puts the finishing touches on a debilitating sleeperhold, J.J. Dillon throws a metal object into the ring for Blanchard to use. The weapon bounces from the ring but distracts Rhodes long enough for him to loosen his hold and turn his attention to Dillon.

From ringside, and in full view of the fans, his co-announcers, and a live television audience, Ric Flair leaves the play-by-play table, retrieves the foreign object, and hands it to Blanchard. Advancing on Dillon, Rhodes is surprised from behind by a Blanchard suplex, which Tully quickly follows up with a blow to Rhodes' head with the foreign object.

Blanchard covers Rhodes for the pin and is awarded the title. Chaos ensues when Baby Doll races into the ring and is pinned down by the Andersons while Flair mounts the turnbuckle and threatens to break her ankle. Magnum T.A. and others come to her rescue, but the damage had been wrought.

TULLY BLANCHARD

"They can't get away with this," Rhodes cried afterward. "I'm sick of Ric Flair and Tully Blanchard interfering in my life. Threatening Baby Doll was the last straw. You heard the fans tonight. They won't stand for this robbery and neither will I. And I won't wait for justice—that's something I'm gonna get me right away, daddy."

—Ken Miranda

NEW YORK, NY: Jake Roberts is fast becoming one of the most feared wrestlers in the WWF, but his reputation has nothing to do with the historical deadliness of the noto-

(Continued on page 54)

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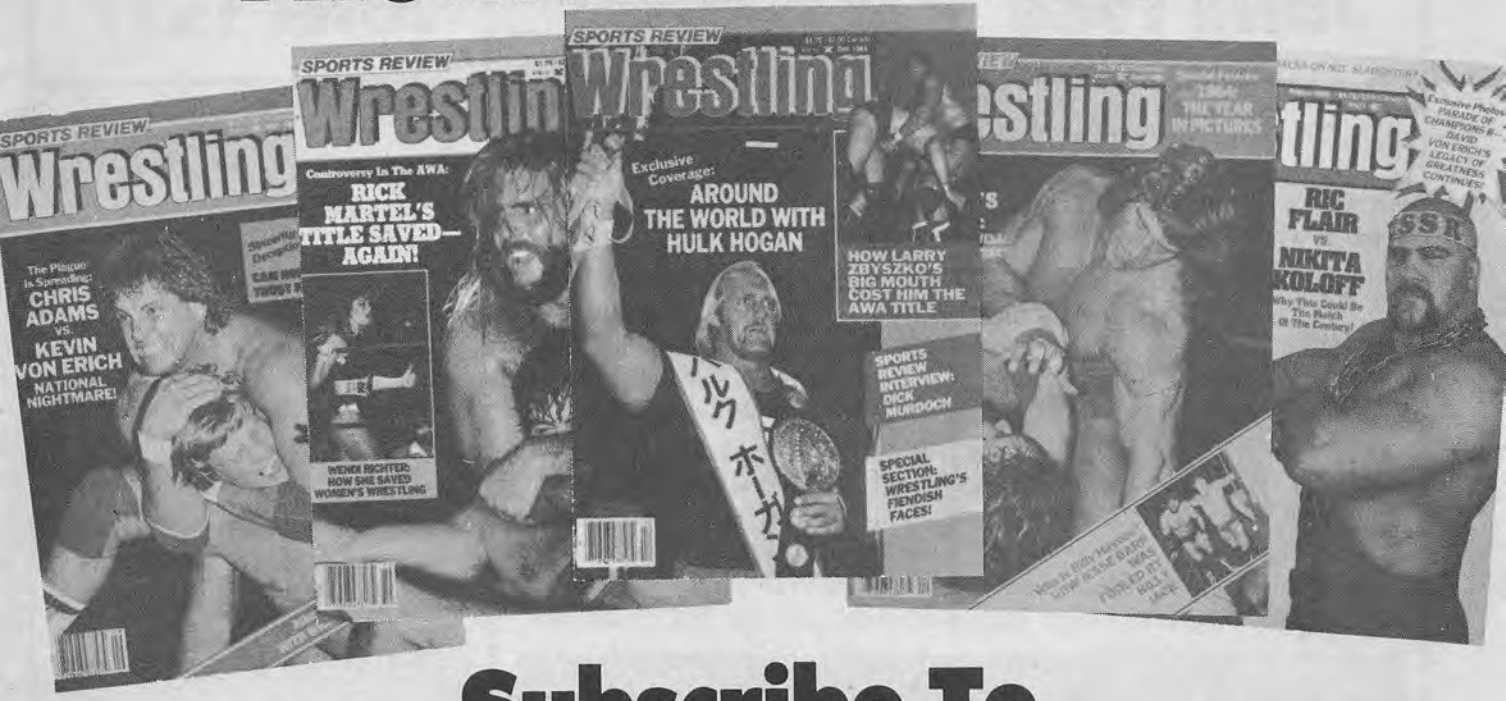

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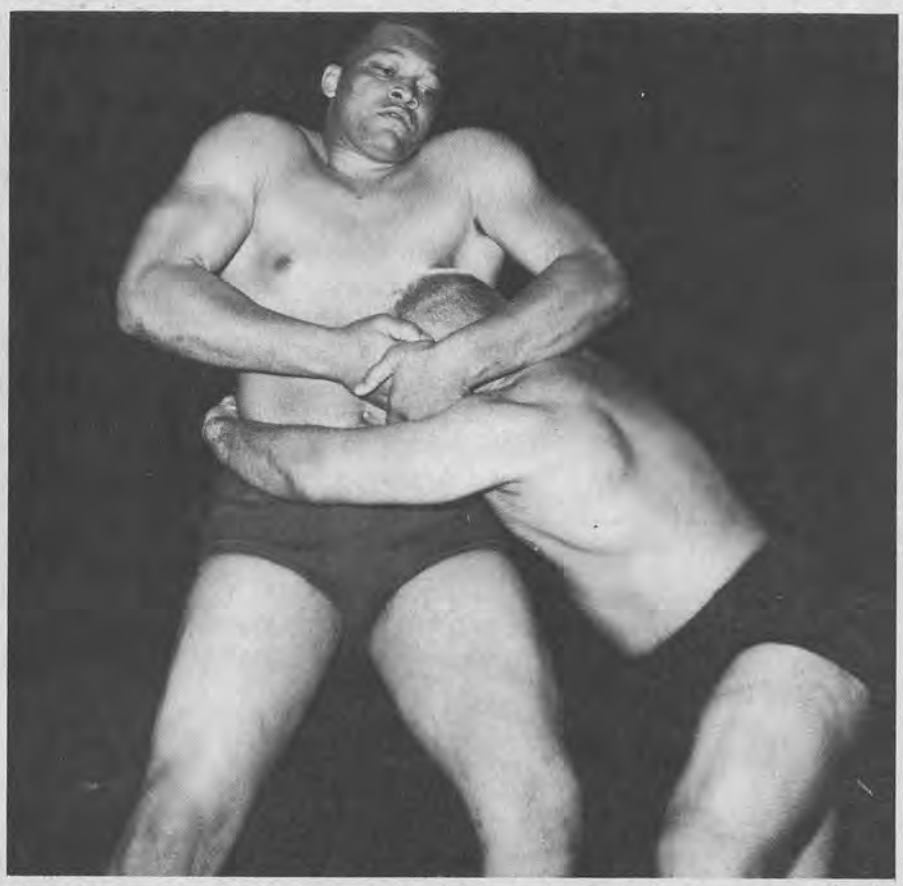
SCRAPBOOK

APRIL-JUNE 1966

DANGEROUS RULEBREAKER Gorilla Monsoon puzzled the wrestling world as he began to show some signs of wanting to break away from his manager, Wild Red Berry ... The tag team of Larry Hennig and Harley Race broke up and Harley announced he preferred to team with his friend, Dale Lewis ... "Beautiful" Bobby Harmon took leadership of the masked team, The Bolos, with hopes of leading them to a major tag team title ... Two red hot tag teams in the Southwestern states were Sonny Myers with partner Timmy Geohagen and the duo of Jack Donovan and The Viking ... Cowboy Bob Ellis was in the midst of a war with both Bulldog Brower and Killer Kowalski. Detroit fans said they have never seen such violent battles ... Bob Orton Sr. and Eddie Graham, once enemies, formed a tag team. Fans feared that the new team would end the careers of the popular Masked Medics ... Chris and John Tolos, the "Canadian Wrecking Crew," announced that their split was final and they would go in search of single titles. Chris spent most of his time wrestling in Canada, while John wrestled all over the world ... Ernie Ladd made the decision to wrestle full-time and give up his football career ... Haystacks Calhoun and The Crusher battled each other all over the East Coast



All-pro lineman Ernie Ladd, who had been splitting his time between football and wrestling, decided to devote himself exclusively to wrestling. The 6'9" Ladd applies a headlock on Rock Hunter.

APRIL-JUNE 1971

TARZAN TYLER and "Crazy" Luke Graham became the first officially recognized WWF World tag team champions after winning a multi-team tournament ... Before a sellout crowd at Hong Kong's Football Club

Capt. Lou Albano managed Tarzan Tyler and "Crazy" Luke Graham to the first officially recognized WWF World tag team championship.

Stadium, Mark Lewin topped Killer Kowalski, two falls to one, in a wild melee ... A day later, the legendary Kowalski came back to defeat Spiros Arion after a vicious kneedrop to the throat ... Buddy Colt won the Georgia heavyweight championship from El Mongol in Savannah and defended it successfully against The Professional ... Wildman Pampero Firpo returned to the Carolina area and stunned everybody by defeating Jack Brisco ... Tojo Yamamoto and Jerry Jarrett captured the Southern

(Continued on page 58)

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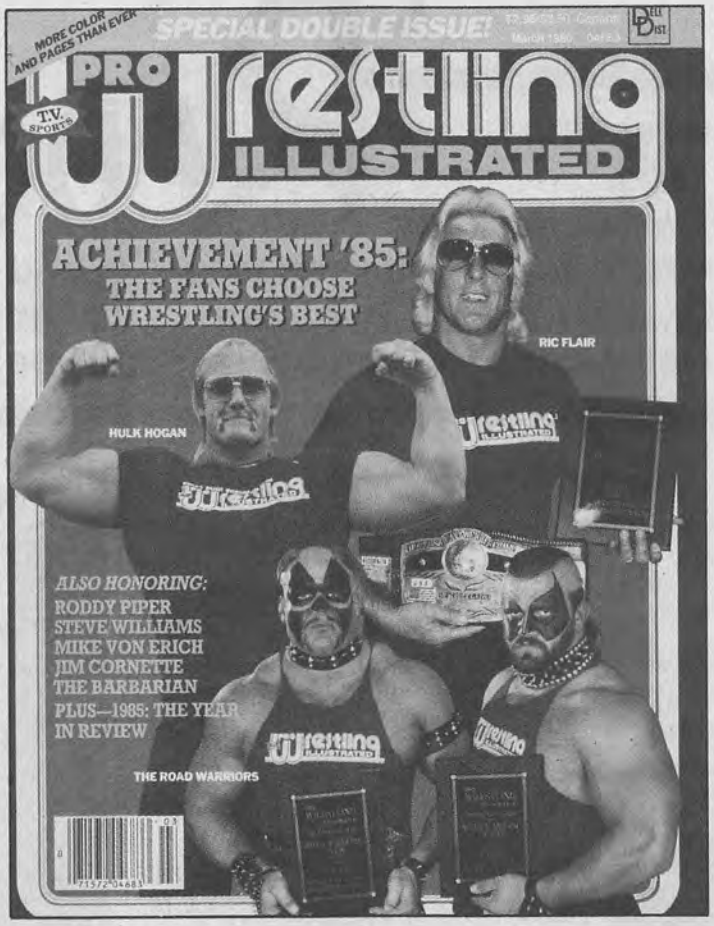

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The Inquiring Reporter

No one knows wrestling better than the fans. Because of this, we're now giving these experts a forum for their views and opinions. Each month, we'll ask a controversial question and have the fans answer—no matter what those answers might be!

THE QUESTION:
"If you could date one person in professional wrestling, who would it be?"

THE ANSWERS:
Paul Cone, Belize: "I don't care if she's part Goat God, part She Wolf, part Devil Dog—Fallen Angel can put me in a spell anytime she wants. The animal she reminds me of is known for its cunning and grace and is spelled F-O-X. That's it, baby, you can have your slave girls and your valets. Fallen Angel, she is La Fox. *Owww!* I'd like to boil Kevin Sullivan in his own cauldron and show Angel how heavenly life could be. What she sees in that bhang-eating moron escapes me. Come to me, Angel Cake, and I'll prove to you God really does exist."

A date with the devil-worshipping Fallen Angel would put respondent Paul Cone in seventh heaven.

J.T. Chumley, Mawa, TX: "Give me Baby Doll or give me a good book to read. If I can't have her, I'd rather stay home. I know she's been around the block a few times, but if the price of happiness is simply to forgive a few minor indiscretions, I can afford it. Baby Doll strikes me like a rainbow, generous to a fault, loyal and consistent—not like the Texas witch Sunshine. Yeah, as long as my paycheck has to go to a broad, the broad might as well be a Doll—a Baby Doll."

Sandy Taylor, Newark, NJ: "You'll probably get mail about this one, but if I had one date with a professional wrestler it would without a doubt be The Missing Link. Besides his gorgeous body, what I like most about him is his unpredictability. You just never know what the Link is liable to do next. That kind of spontaneity, of uncertainty, singes my blood with desire. And what a date he would be! Let anyone dare make a pass at me, and the Link would devour him. I could use a jealous, possessive boyfriend for

Sandy Taylor would like to hook up with The Missing Link for a date. Sandy is looking for an aggressive, possessive man who would protect her from all others.

(Continued on page 56)

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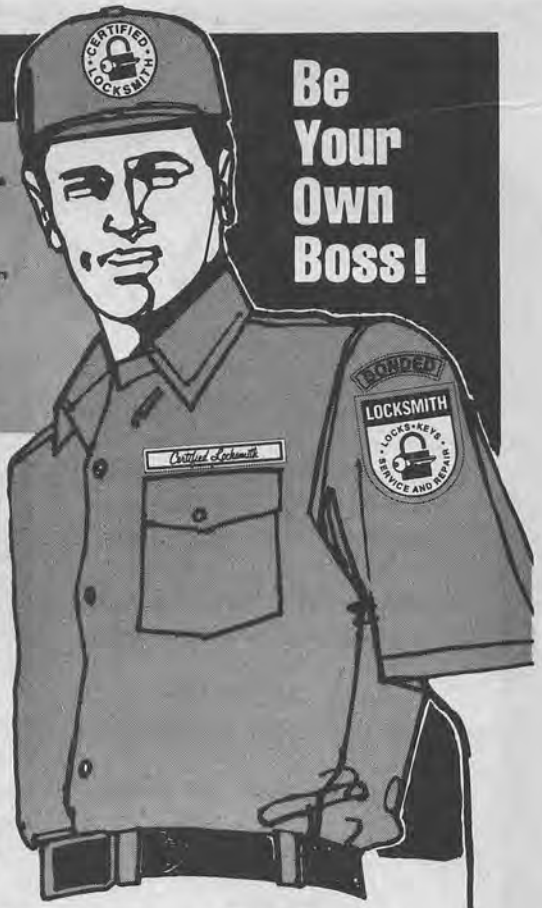

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TOP WRESTLE

YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question you want answered by 10 of wrestling's top stars? Each month, *Sports Review Wrestling* will publish a fan's "Question of the Month," which will be answered by the sport's top superstars. If you have a question you would like to see answered, send it to:
ASK THE STARS
Sports Review Wrestling
Box 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571

THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

"Does the involvement of non-wrestlers in main events diminish the sport's credibility?"

Submitted by: Janet Delancey Bethesda, MD

STEVE WILLIAMS

"I've wrestled and played football forever, and while football has taught me a lot about life, I'd stack a wrestler against a football player in any fight, be it in a bar or a wrestling ring. A match like that'll only hurt a ballplayer's credibility. I would never even accept a match against a football player—they don't know any moves and haven't any skills. And brute strength'll rarely win a wrestling match."

BLACKJACK MULLIGAN

"Not when we send them packing with their tails between their legs. Let me tell ya, I was once a cocky football player. I thought I was tough until I stepped in the ring and got my head handed to me by a prelim bum. It takes more than beef to master the nuances of professional grappling. If other athletes want to try their hand in the ring, I welcome them. C'mon boys, it's an easy sport. Please, come to Florida and try. Allow the Blackjack to demonstrate a couple of simple holds on ya."

RIC FLAIR

"Why would it hurt the credibility of this sport if a bunch of unskilled bozos want to get in the ring and make fools of themselves? Only a desperate promoter would ever book athletes who aren't trained professional wrestlers anyway. If for some reason I ever found myself across the ring from an actor or a boxer or a football player, I would beat him to within an inch of his life. Don't insult me. If you can't wrestle, get the hell out of my ring."

BILL WATTS

"If you're talking about Mr. T, you're damn right it does. What the hell business does a bad actor have in a wrestling ring? And now I hear they have him *boxing* against other wrestlers. With that logic, Clint Eastwood should start arresting people because he's played a cop in the movies. Leave it to the WWF to consistently come up with the stupidest ideas. A football battle royal! Mr. T! I guess you need a bunch of amateurs if the champion of your alliance can't wrestle worth a damn."

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH

LITTLE MR. T

"I've spent years learning and training and am proud to say that I can take down men who are twice my size. The other day someone asked me why more jockeys don't become midget wrestlers in the off-season. I grabbed the smart aleck by his belt and knocked the wind out of him. People can't comprehend how difficult a flying headscissors, a clothesline, etc., is to negotiate. I'll be happy to take on any non-wrestler—big or small—who doubts the toughness of this sport."

WAHOO McDANIEL

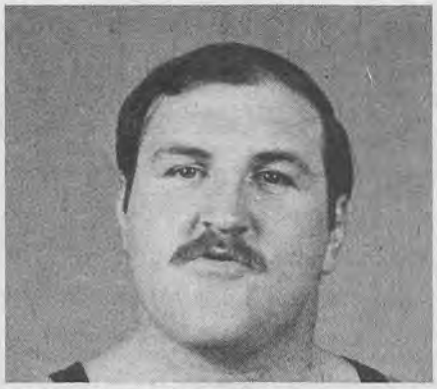
"As a former pro football player, I know the difference between the gridiron and the ring. Get a ballplayer in the ring and he starts looking for his teammates for help. Well there ain't anyone but you, fella, so start praying. Having other athletes try their hand at wrestling *increases* our credibility after we whup 'em. And don't any of you promoters think otherwise—we'll always whup 'em."

STAN HANSEN

"Tough is tough and a prelim bum is tougher than the toughest boxer and football player put together. You have to be real affected to put anyone besides a professional wrestler into the ring against another professional wrestler. Although it's a guarantee that you'll see their blood spill. And that's what the people want. That's why my matches are always sold out."

KEVIN VON ERICH

"My family's been in wrestling so long, I feel like I was born in the ring. So I don't mind telling you that it makes my blood boil when I see celebrities getting involved in the sport. If a famous performer sings the National Anthem that's fine, but if he tries climbing between the ropes, it's not going to help him and his health or me and my sport. I've spent my whole life refining my craft, and it's insulting when other people think they can go in and wing it for a night."



SGT. SLAUGHTER

"My first drill sergeant was the toughest man I ever met, and he's the only man I ever feared, but if he stepped in the ring with me today I'd have no choice but to thrash him. The ring is for professionals only. We don't want any ex-football, baseball, and hockey players. Unless they apprentice themselves to a professional wrestler and learn the craft. Otherwise they're embarrassing themselves and our sport. And I don't like to be embarrassed."

JIM CROCKETT

"Besides running a wrestling promotion, my family also owns a minor league baseball team. And I would no sooner think to send Magnum T.A. out to pinch hit than I would send a second baseman into a tag team battle. There's a danger in thinking that professional athletes are interchangeable. Besides the threat of injury, it definitely discredits both sports involved. When a non-athlete becomes involved, the resulting damage can spell disaster."

BACK ISSUES OF

Inside Wrestling

VICTORY SPORTS SERIES

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August 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Garea, Rhodes, Sammartino.
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February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.
March 1976/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.
April 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.
June 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Bockwinkel, Flair, Mascaras.
August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.
September 1976/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Hansen, Mascaras.
October 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.
November 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.
December 1976/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.
January 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.
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August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.
September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.
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November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.
December 1977/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.
March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.
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January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.
February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.
April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.
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June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.
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August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.
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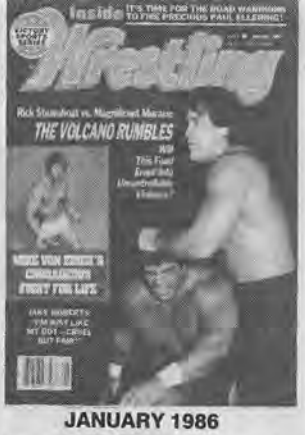

JANUARY 1986

November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.
January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.
February 1981/Stories include: Backlund, DiBiase, Bravo, Anderson.
April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.
May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.
June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.
September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.
January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humperdink.
February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.
March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.
April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.
May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.
June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.
July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.
August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.
September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.
October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.
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September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
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November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
February 1984/Stories include: Abdullah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, The Road Warriors
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April 1986/Stories include:Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts

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October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.

DECEMBER 1985

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

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January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

November 1980/Stories include: Rich, Hogan, Snuka, Super Destroyers.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

March 1983/Stories include: Piper, Reed, Valiant, Roberts.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors. Backlund, Santana, Rich.

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July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

January 1986/Stories include: 20th Anniversary, 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen

March 1986/Stories include: Lance Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen vs. Martel

April 1986/Stories include: Kevin Von Erich, Rude, Lex Lugar, Hogan, Magnum TA.

THE WRESTLER

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☐ JUNE 75	☐ FEB 79	☐ JULY 81	☐ JULY 83	☐ MAY 85
☐ JULY 75	☐ MAY 79	☐ AUG 81	☐ AUG 83	☐ JUNE 85
☐ AUG 75	☐ JULY 79	☐ OCT 81	☐ SEPT 83	☐ JULY 85
☐ DEC 75	☐ AUG 79	☐ DEC 81	☐ OCT 83	☐ AUG 85
☐ JAN 76	☐ OCT 79	☐ JAN 82	☐ NOV 83	☐ SEPT 85
☐ FEB 76	☐ DEC 79	☐ MAR 82	☐ DEC 83	☐ OCT 85
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☐ NOV 76	☐ FEB 80	☐ MAY 82	☐ MAR 84	☐ DEC 85
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WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

JERRY LAWLER

LAST ISSUE'S "Wrestler of the Month" column described the growing antagonism between the editors over the selection process. The feud began to turn ugly when Assistant Editor Eddie Ellner, angry over Jim Schuermann's disapproval of his selection of Curt Hennig and Scott Hall as Wrestlers of the Month, slammed the washroom door on Schuermann's recently healed broken nose, re-injuring the young man's shnozz, and sending him back to the hospital.

As it turns out, that was but a calm prelude to the events of this month. Assistant Editor Jeff Ryan, who had sided with Schuermann last month, opened the selection conference with a gambit that Ellner claims was calculated to arouse his wrath.

"I don't care who the wrestler of the month is as long as it's *not* Jerry Lawler," the rangy editor roared, knowing full well Ellner was lobbying heavily for Lawler this month. "He has no right being back in the Mid-Southern area. His banishment was for six months. When I last checked the calendar, only three months had elapsed."

"The fans were begging for Lawler to come back," Ellner screamed. "The promoters allowed it! His comeback match sold out the Mid-South Coliseum for the first time in years!"

The argument trembled back and forth, gaining in volume and intensity.

"Since when did we award a Wrestler of the Month on the basis of box-office receipts?" railed Ryan. "Are we a house organ for the Mid-Southern promotion or a professional wrestling magazine?

If Ellner is possessive of one thing, it is his professional integrity and the reputation of the magazine. "Don't you ever accuse us of being a house organ for anyone!" he screamed. "You know damn well no one here would ever sell out. If you don't like it leave, creep."

"Hey, Joe," Ryan countered, "I don't need these character assassinations. If you want to get personal and derogatory, then I'll meet you outside, although I know you wouldn't show up."

And he stormed out of the office, and didn't report back for the rest of the day. There still remained the issue of Wrestler of the Month, which, without Ryan's forceful counter-arguments, was quickly resolved in favor of Jerry Lawler. Without a major championship changing hands cleanly, Lawler acquitted himself as the only logical selection for the award.

Lawler's selection evolved from out of the web of intrigue and brutality that has stricken the Mid-Southern area since Lawler dropped a loser-leave-town match to Buddy Landell back in December. Since then, Landell and Bill Dundee have conducted a campaign of terror that has stricken the territory and caused several wrestlers to consider leaving the area in fear of injury.

The penultimate moment came in a televised tag team encounter between Landell and Dundee against Jim Jameson and Dave Johnson. Before the match, veteran Jerry Jarrett announced his retirement from the ring, citing his blind right eye as the cause. "I'm frightened that something might happen to the left one," Jarrett explained. "Don't want to spend the rest of my days with a dog and a cane."

Jarrett's son Jeff refereed the match, which, predictably, degenerated into a pier-six brawl. As Landell and Dundee mercilessly beat upon Jameson and Johnson, referee Jarrett tried to separate them. The two then turned their venom upon the helpless referee and began smothering blows upon him.

Jerry Jarrett ran into the ring to help his son, and, as if Landell and Dundee had designed the plot, the tag team dropped the bleeding son in favor of the veteran father. As the fans looked on in horror, Landell and Dundee concentrated their beating on Jarrett's good eye, until promoter Eddie Marlin ran in to evacuate the ring.

"Only one man can stop this horror!" Marlin screamed, and then paved the way for Lawler's return. "There will be no more fines and I hereby cut the rest of Jerry Lawler's exile off. He may return."

For his part, Lawler begged off, claiming he didn't seek or desire preferential treatment. But after Marlin explained the brutal goings-on in his absence, Lawler consented to return.

Teaming with Dutch Mantell upon his return just days later, before a SRO crowd at the Mid-South Coliseum, Lawler battered Landell and Dundee from ringpost to ringpost before giving way to Mantell for the pin.

The King had returned and his Mid-Southern kingdom was safe once again. □

Jerry Lawler has been reinstated as King of Memphis wrestling.

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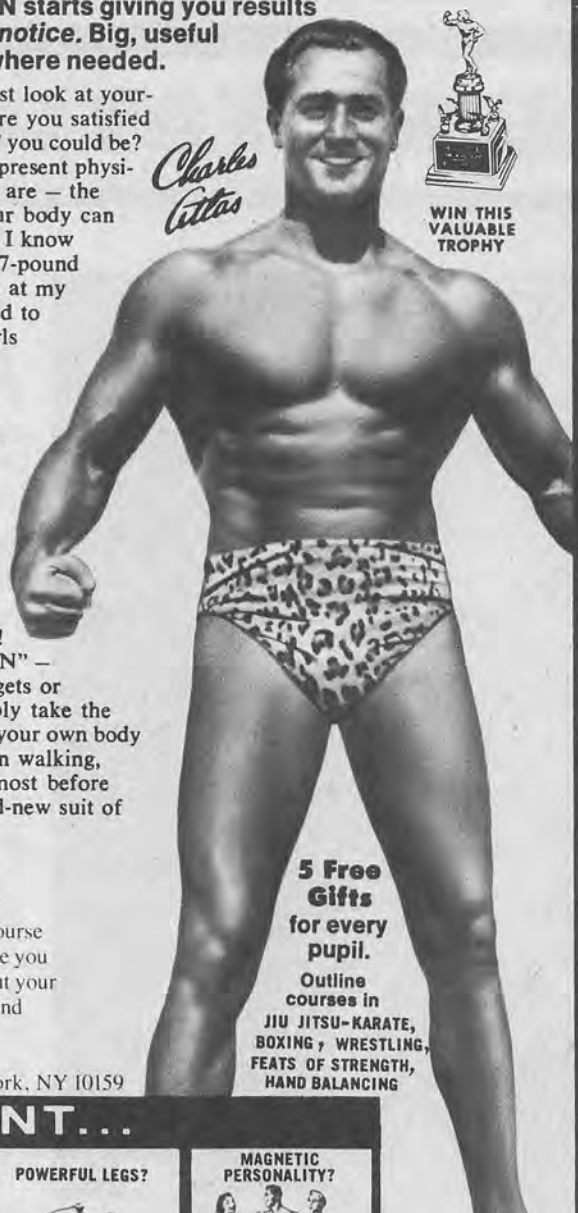

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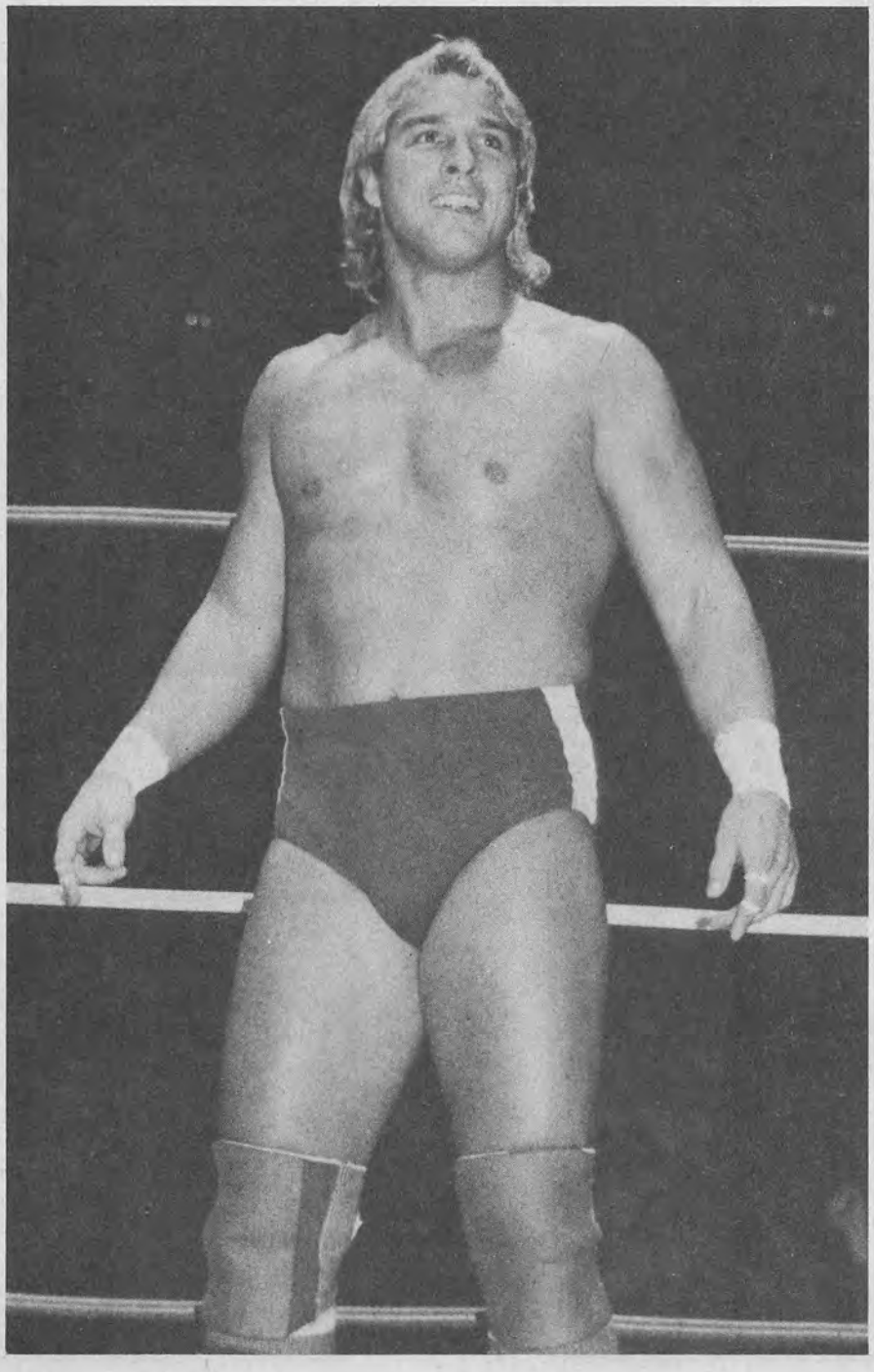
INTERVIEW

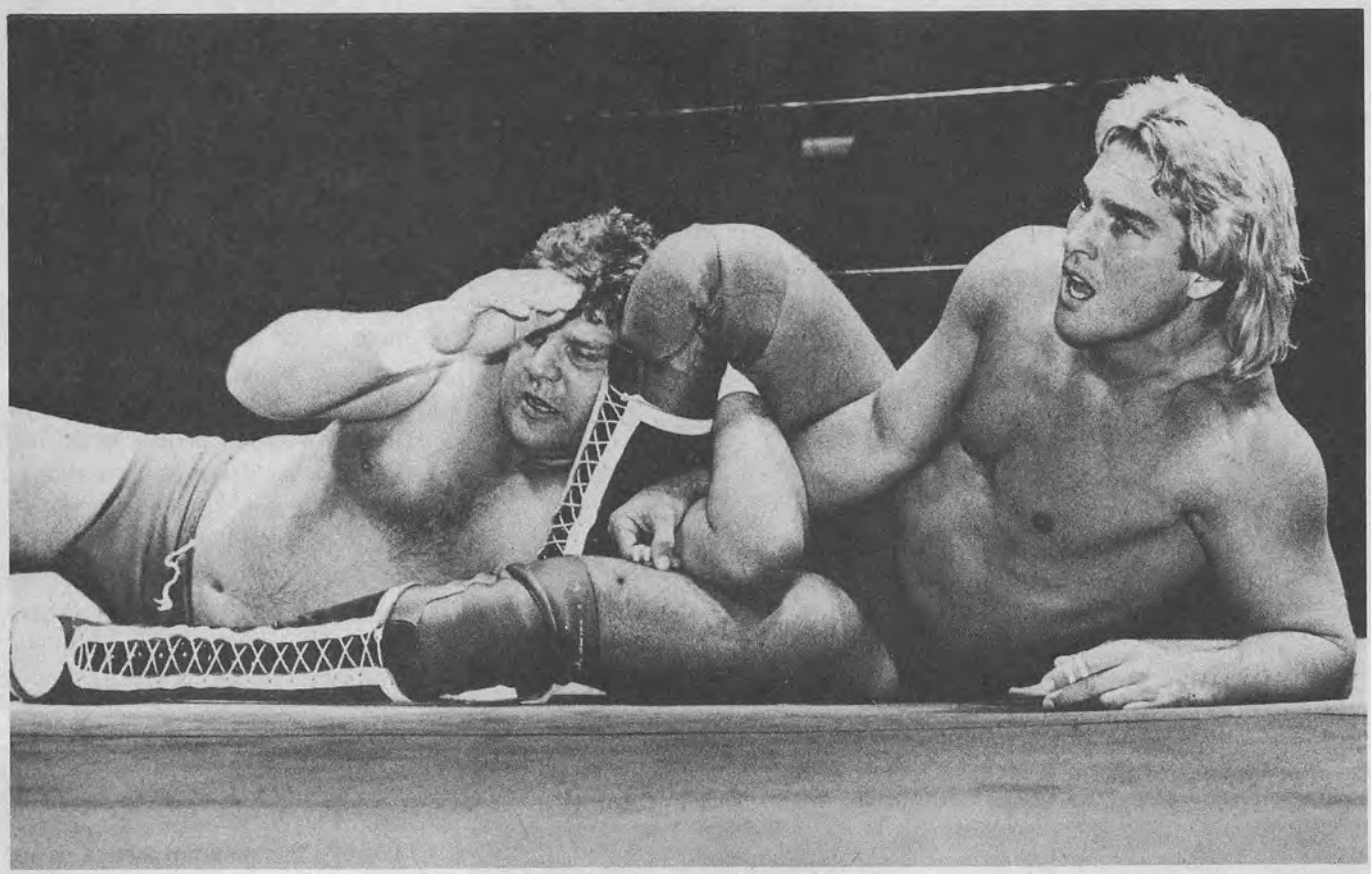
TERRY TAYLOR



RUMORS OF TERRY Taylor's demise, retirement, and general disappearance were greatly exaggerated. It is true the handsome star dropped from NWA title contention after Buddy Landell stole his National belt in November, but his reputation as a multi-skilled ring technician remained insoluble and kept him in the ratings.

After losing the belt, Taylor returned to the Mid-South area where he has since stayed, attempting to reclaim the North American title that he defended proudly over a year ago. His feud against current champion Dick Slater packed houses from the oil fields of Oklahoma to the Lousiana Bayou, and revealed a spanking-new Terry Taylor, one determined to invalidate those critics who vilified him for not winning the NWA title, for not living up to his impossible potential.

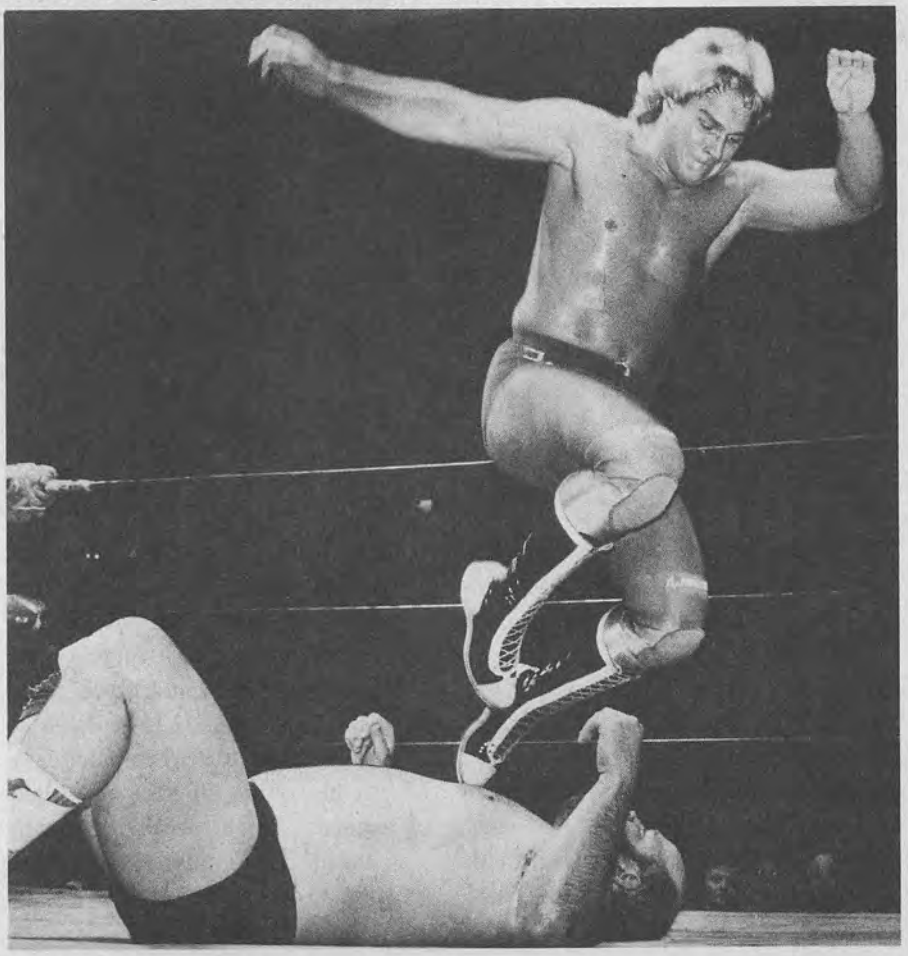
Taylor was never embittered. In this interview with Senior Editor Bill Apter, Taylor explains why he left the Carolinas, why he never sought a rematch against Landell, and the reason he expects the convoluted path he has taken to be the quickest route to the NWA belt. Revealed here also is Terry Taylor in repose and reflection, the man within the wrestler who covets the World championship but recognizes life will go on without the golden strap.



Q: Your loss to Landell came at a point in your career when you and Magnum T.A. were at loggerheads vying for NWA title shots against Ric Flair. It seemed but a matter of time before one of you would walk away with the title. Instead you walked away from the area. Why did you leave?

A: The loss to Landell underscored my frustration with everything—wrestling, my career, my personal life. It had evolved to such a degree that life was reduced to a quest for the NWA title. I'm not underplaying the importance of the title. I'm a pro wrestler and I want that gold as much as anyone, but I'm also only going around once, if you'll pardon the cliche. Pro wrestling's allowed me to live a comfortable life, but I won't allow it to run my life. My first thoughts after the Landell bout were, 'This guy stole my title. I'm gonna cream the sonofabitch.' Then I reconsidered. The loss became a blessing in disguise. I knew I'd come back someday. Why couldn't someday be in two months instead of tomorrow? So I went to Europe. I went to

Left alone with his opponent and not having to worry about the interference of a third party, Taylor feels he can realize the world championship potential that others see in him. Terry locks North American champion Dick Slater's arm within his legs (above) and executes a running kneedrop against Buzz Sawyer (below).



While holding the National title, Taylor is interviewed by Tony Schiavone (above) in North Carolina. Frustrated over his title loss to a J.J. Dillon-assisted Buddy Landell, Taylor moved back to the Mid-South, where Sawyer is one of his primary opponents (below).

Mexico. I relaxed. Then, as I knew it would, the itch, the desire returned. I couldn't wait to get back in the ring.

Q: Many people thought you were running away. Some thought you were frightened of Landell.

A: **Anyone who knew me didn't think that. Landell beat me the same way The Nightmare beat me. With outside interference, I could beat up Moses Malone, Bruiser Brody, and Mike Tyson at one time. Landell had J.J. Dillon; The Nightmare had Flair. After The Nightmare match, I came to the Carolinas. After Landell beat me, I came back here. It is senseless to remain in an area where I am consistently getting double- and triple-teamed. Frightened of Buddy Landell? That's pretty funny. I just want to wrestle where I feel I can get an even break.**

Q: Does the spectre of Dark Journey interfering on Dick Slater's behalf worry you at all?

A: **Dark Journey isn't Ric Flair, although I probably shouldn't say that. Next match she'll pull out a .44 and blow my head off. Anyway, I think Jake Roberts taught her the dangers of interfering. Her neck is still in a brace, isn't it?**

Q: I believe so.

A: **She's aware of the consequences then. I wouldn't hesitate to do the same to her if she came near me.**

Q: If you defeat Slater, what then? Will you go after Flair? Is it time to resume the quest?

A: **I can't afford to think about Flair. Slater is too tough a competitor to overlook.**

Q: Still, wouldn't you welcome another shot at the NWA title?

A: **Hell yes, Bill. And I like the position I'm in. If I stayed in the World Championship area, I never would have reached the position I'm in now. I would have burned out long ago. As North American champion—provided I beat Slater—I'm entitled to shots at Flair whenever he's in the area. I'm in the best shape of my career right now. Emotionally, I can handle the rigors of a champion's life. I'm more comfortable here in the Mid-South, and the support I'm getting is tremendous. I'd be half the wrestler I am without the fans.**

Q: What do the fans do for you specifically?

A: **It's hard to describe the feeling exactly, but when I come out of the dressing room and 10,000 people start to scream and cheer, I get a surge of power—like I've touched a live wire. No longer am I moving of my own volition. Now I've plugged into a high voltage energy supply. I'm charged. I'm primed. It's the most wonderful feeling I can imagine. It's unearthly, otherworldly, religious—Bill it's indescribable. I feel indestructible.**

Q: Has your friendship with Magnum changed at all? Has it been affected by your absence?

A: Of course it has. When you're wrestling in different parts of the country, you never get to see your old friends. I speak to Magnum on the phone a couple of times a month. We always make plans to meet and they always seem to fall through. It's been almost eight months since Magnum and I lit up a town. But you come to expect those kind of absences in this business. That's why it gets so lonely sometimes. Once we see each other, it'll be like old times again.

Q: Suppose Magnum captured the NWA title from Ric Flair. Would you wrestle your old friend for the title? Could you mount the same savage and technical assault on Magnum that you would on Dick Slater?

A: Right now, being miles removed from the possibility, it's easy for me to say yes. Of course I'd wrestle Magnum for the title. I'd even go outside and peddle tickets for the match, because let me tell you, it would be one for the record books. You'll have to ask me that question again after Magnum T.A. wins the NWA title.

Q: What do you think of the new fan favorite team here in the Mid-South of Steve Williams and Ted DiBiase?

A: I haven't noticed an appreciable change in their tactics. They are still one of the most ferocious teams in all of wrestling. The fans have taken a liking to them, though, and they are much more sociable in the locker room. I'm glad to see them embrace the forces of good, in theory at least, glad to have them on my side.

Q: Is there anything else you care to say Terry Taylor? Anything your fans should know about?

A: I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who takes the time to cheer for me. I want you all to know how much I appreciate, how much I need your support. I will continue to do my best to justify your faith in me. I love you all, every one of you. □

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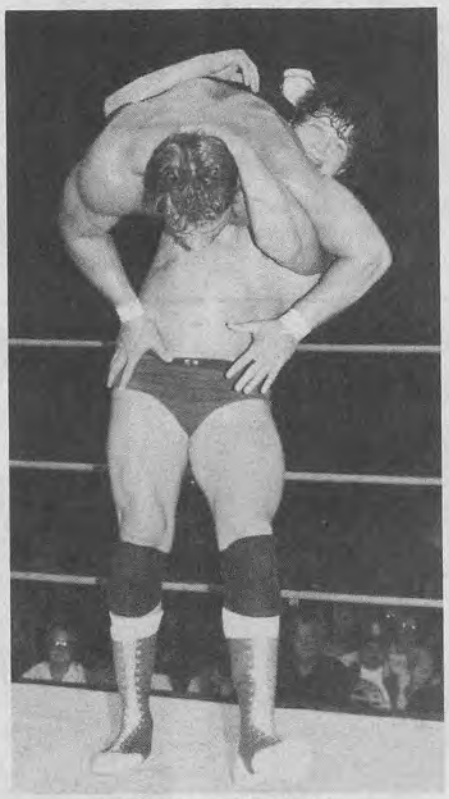
THE BATTLE OF THE BELTS II

Many Florida wrestling fans are already calling The Battle Of The Belts II the card of the year. *Sports Review Wrestling* brings this truly incredible collection of matches to life in this sensational photo section!

Barry Windham vs. Ric Flair



Lex Lugar vs. Jesse Barr

Kendall Windham vs. Prince Iaukea

Warrior Hawk vs. Bob Roop

Bruiser Brody vs. Wahoo McDaniel

WHILE IT MAY not have drawn as much attention as the Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament, and it may not have been closed-circuited to as many cities as WrestleMania 2, the Battle Of The Belts II card held in Orlando, Florida, delivered all the action, thrills, and excitement it promised—and then some!

Fans throughout Florida were able to see the card on television, as were fans in Dallas, Houston, and several cities in North Carolina. And watch they did: The overnight ratings in Miami scored an 8.3 rating, outdrawing both *Dallas* and *Miami Vice!*

Seven big matches included such top stars as NWA World champion Ric Flair, former AWA World tag team champions The Road Warriors, Bruiser Brody, Barry Windham, Lex Lugar—well, you'll see what we mean as you read through the following match descriptions and see the peak-action photos taken by Bill Apter. It was a night to remember, and *Sports Review Wrestling* is proud to bring you this ringside seat for Battle of the Belts II!

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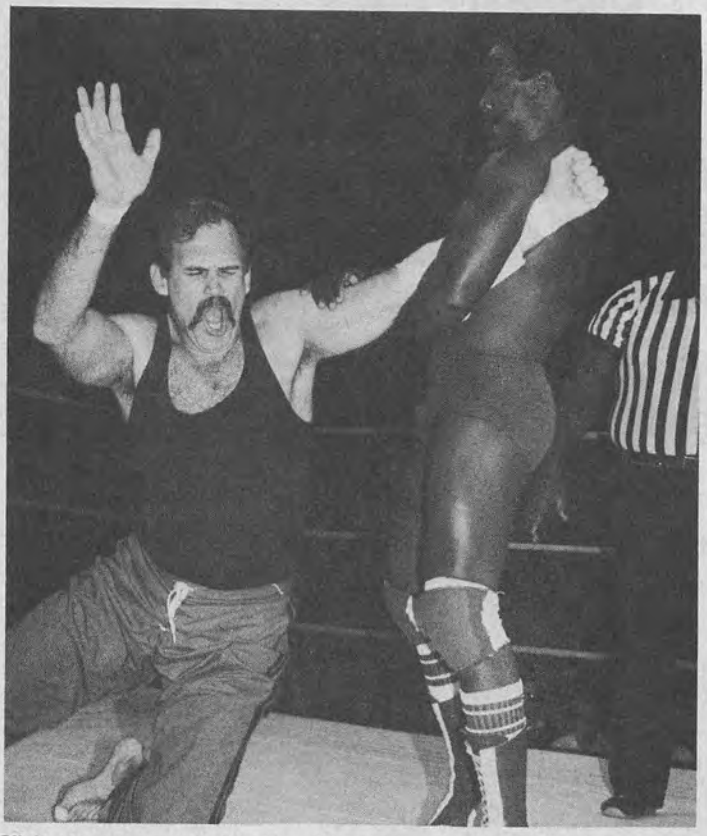
Tyree Pride vs. Ron Slinker: The Haitian community in Florida is sol-

(Continued on page 50)

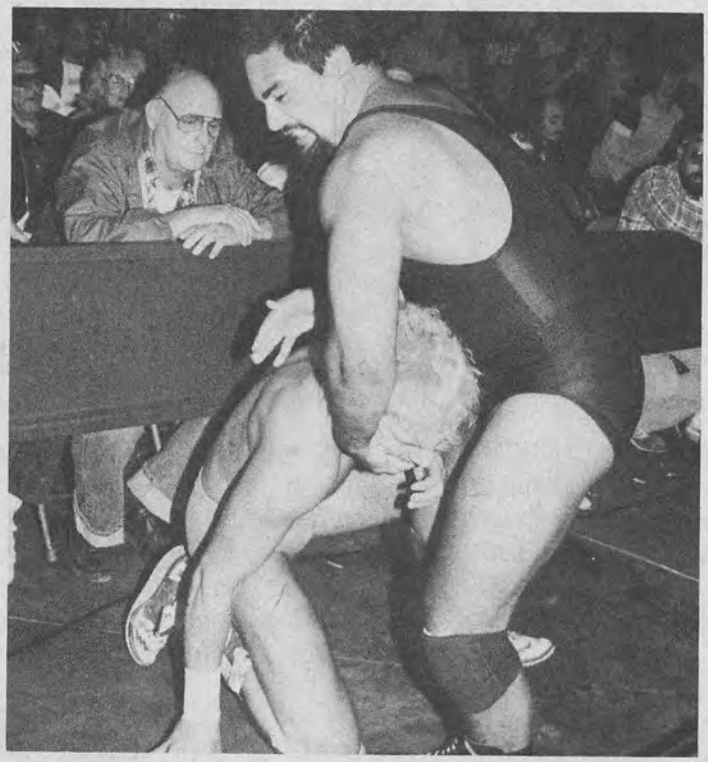
Photos by Bill Apter

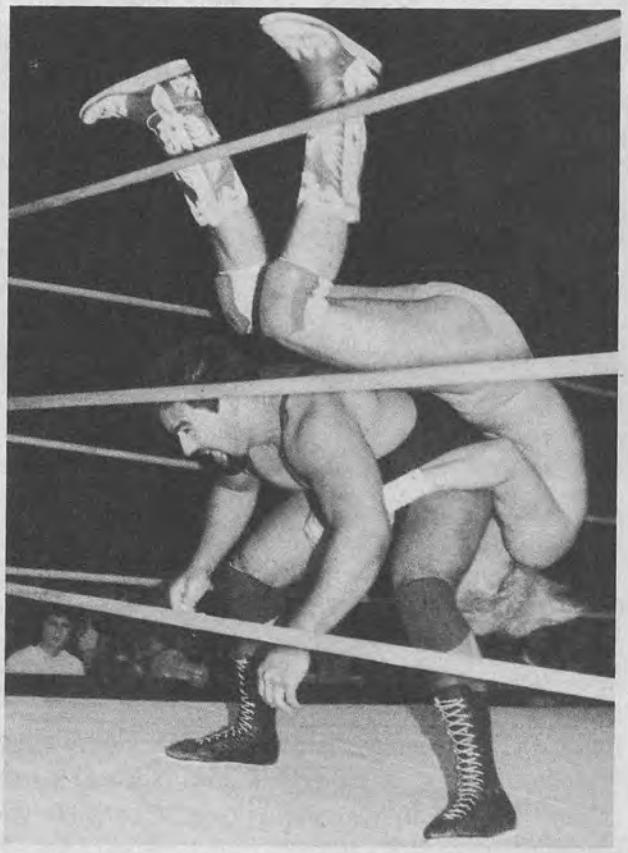
TYREE PRIDE vs. RON SLINKER



Slinker was outwrestled by the skilled Pride start to finish. Slinker howls from the pain of Pride's armlock. Right: The Bahamian champion hits Slinker with a perfect cross-bodyblock and takes the pin.

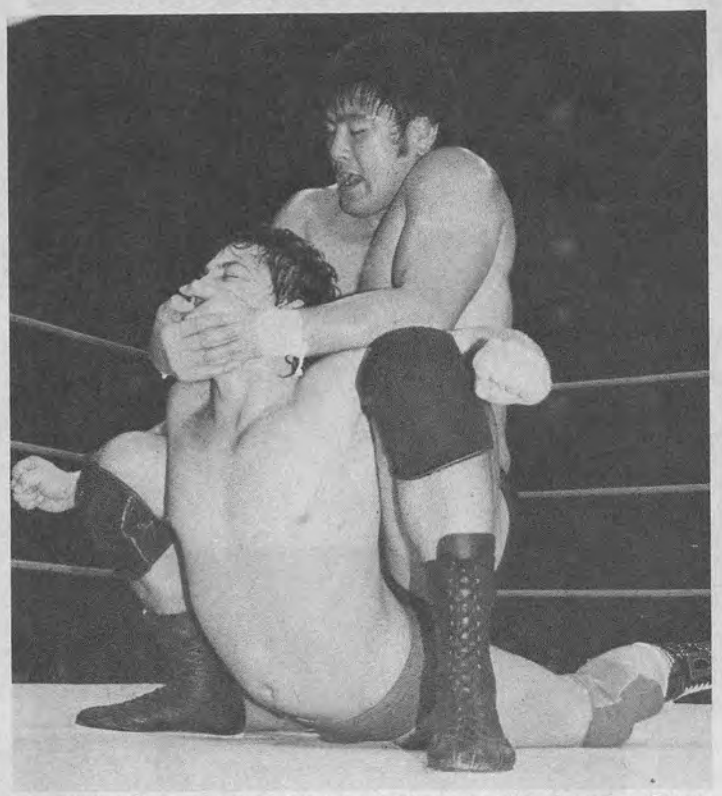
KENDALL WINDHAM vs. PRINCE IAUKEA

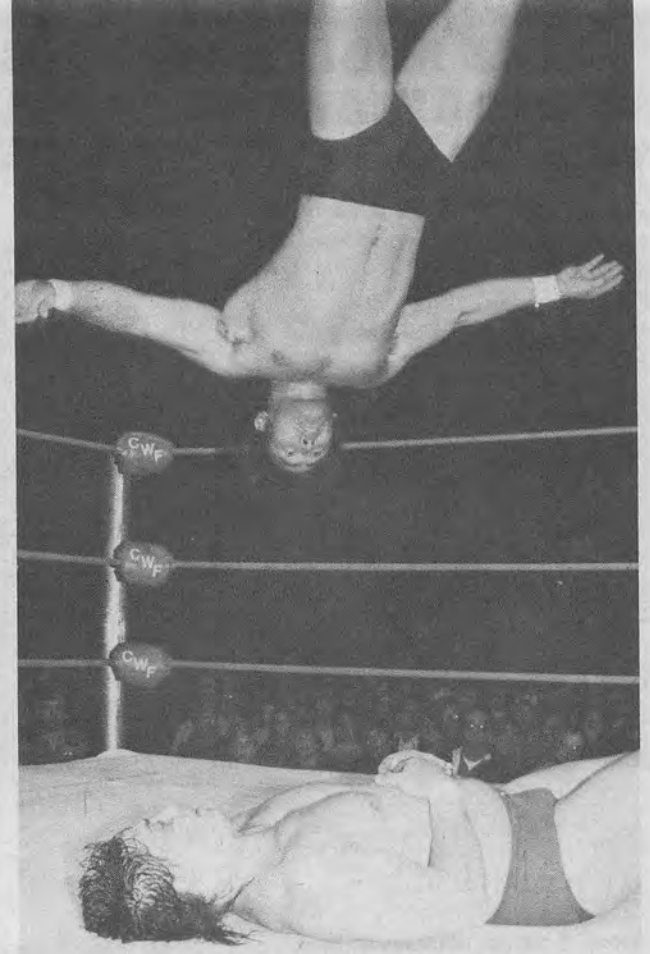




The Windham-Iaukea match started as an intriguing clash of scientific skills and degenerated into a brawl. Above left: The action having strayed from the ring, Iaukea applies a chokehold. Above right: Kendall returns to the ring in spectacular fashion with a sunset flip.

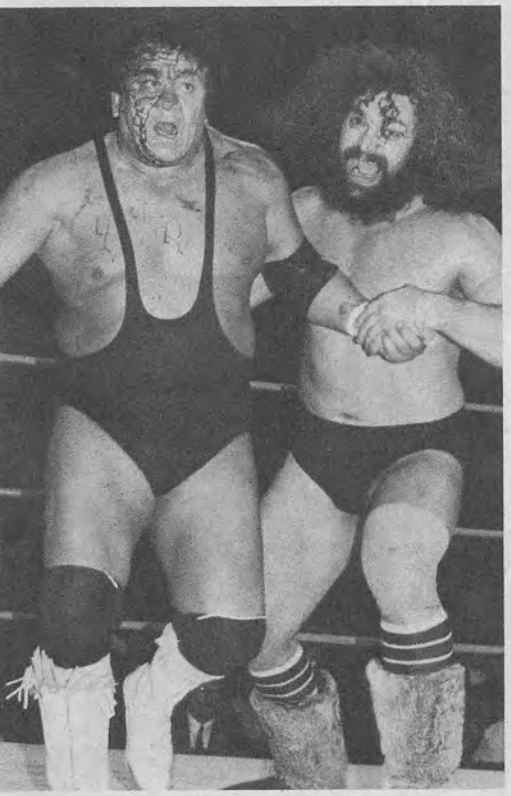
DENNY BROWN vs. THE WHITE NINJA

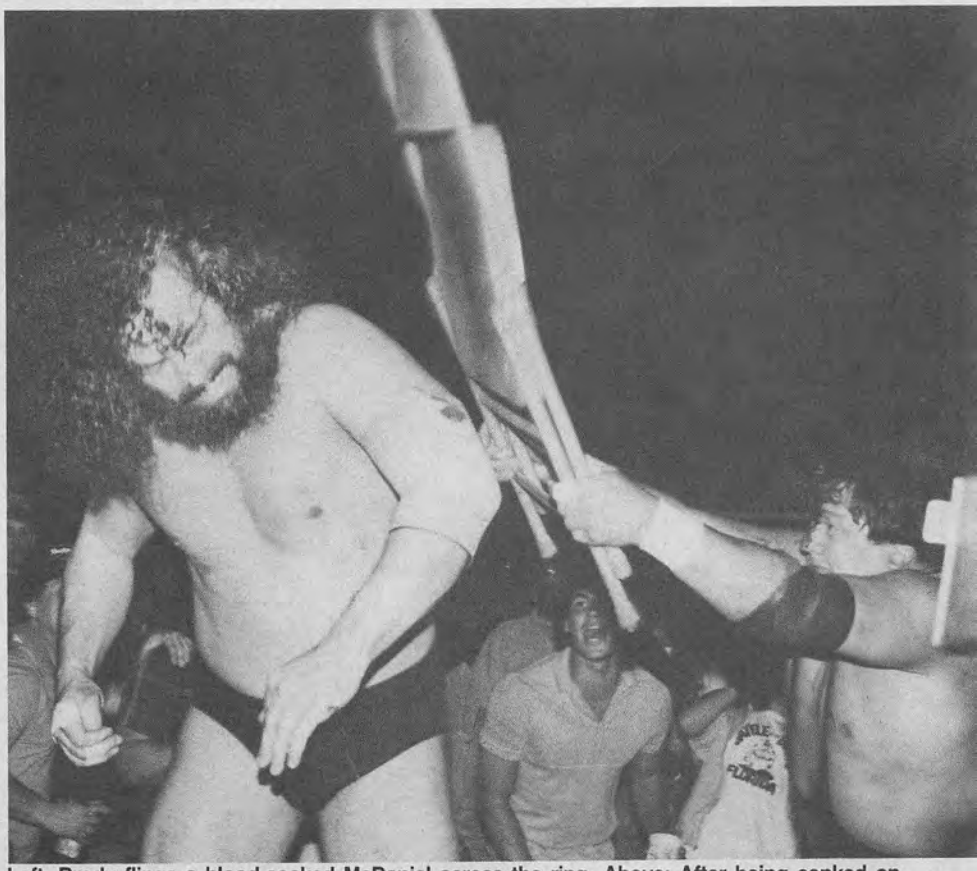




The White Ninja provided NWA junior heavyweight champion Denny Brown with his toughest challenge in his five months as champion. Above: It took Brown close to a minute to escape Ninja's torturous camel clutch. Right: Ninja's backflip from the turnbuckles finds its mark.

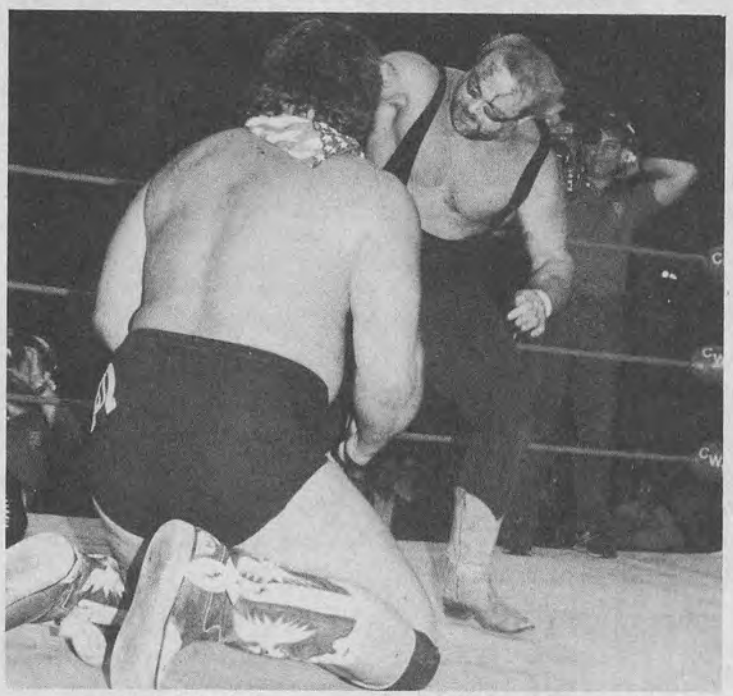
WAHOO McDANIEL vs. BRUISER BRODY

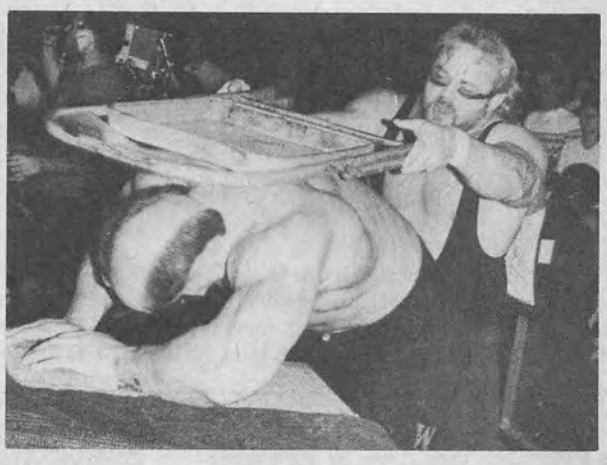




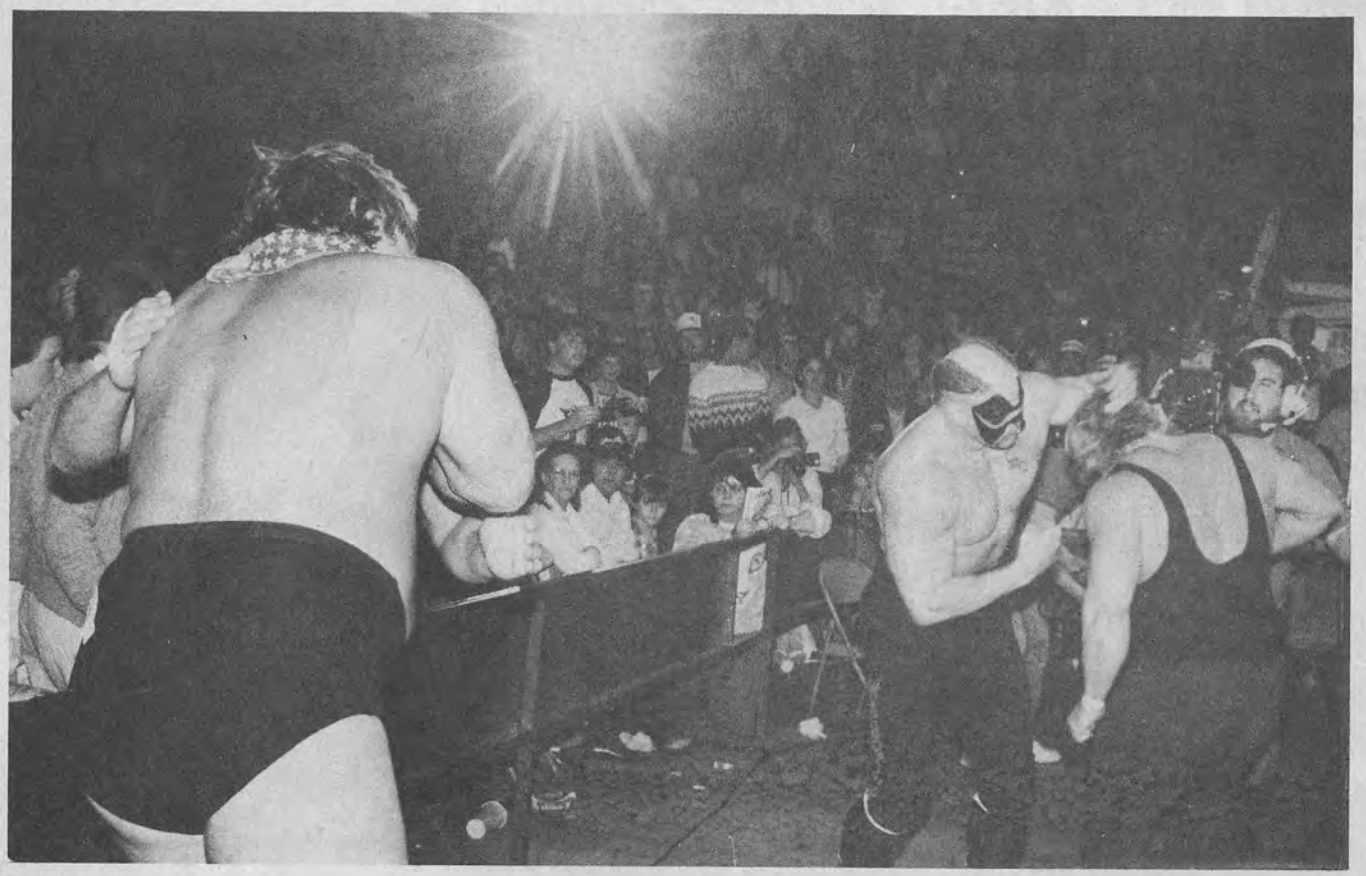
Left: Brody flings a blood-soaked McDaniel across the ring. Above: After being conked on the head with a chair, Brody decided to call it an evening. McDaniel would follow him back to the dressing room, battling all the way.

THE ROAD WARRIORS & BLACKJACK MULLIGAN vs. BOB ROOP, MARK LEWIN, & KEVIN SULLIVAN

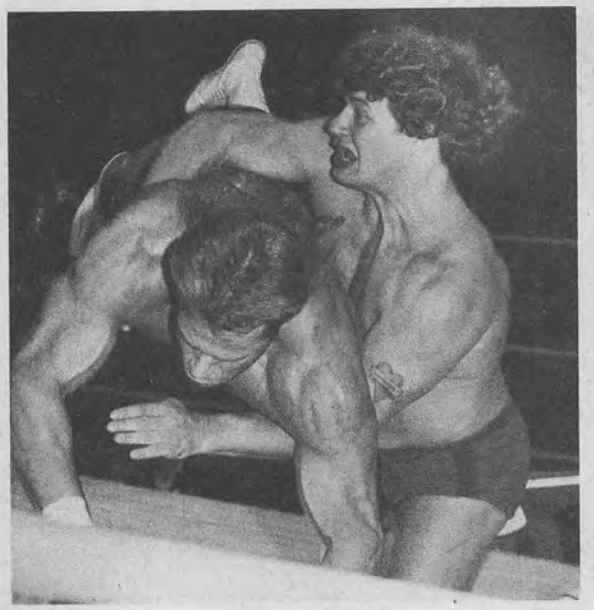




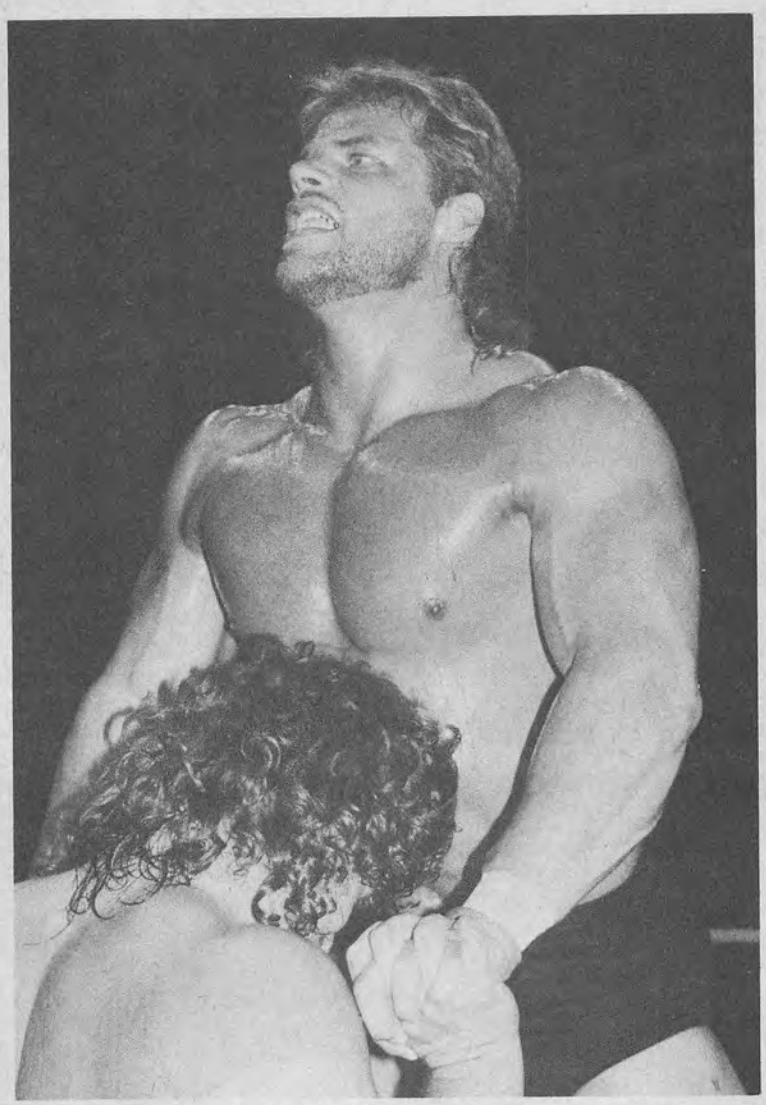
Above: A barrage of closed-fist punches by Sullivan drops Mulligan to his knees. Top right: The match is already out of control as Mulligan drags the steps into the ring while Hawk works over Sullivan. Right: The Prince of Darkness tries to put Hawk's lights out with a chair. Below: With all six men out of the ring and no hope of bringing them back, the referee rules a double-DQ.



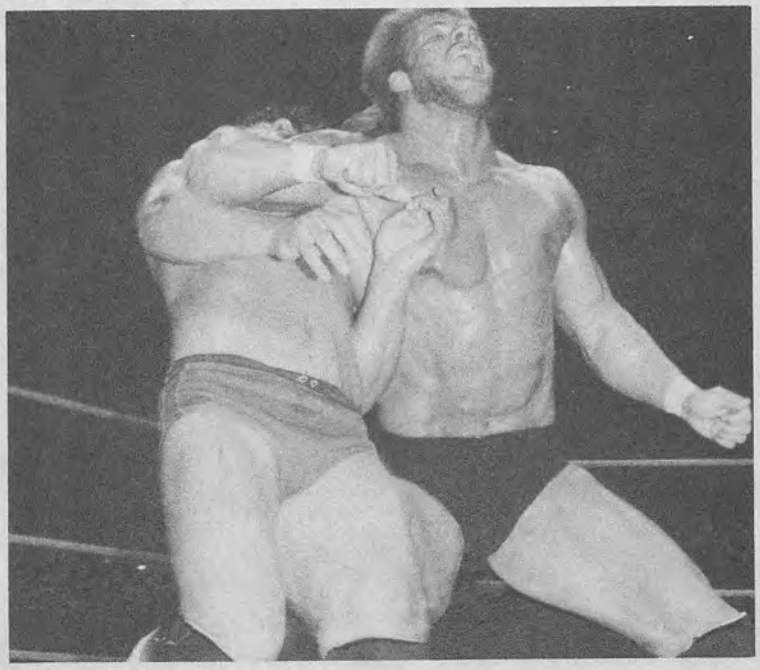
JESSE BARR vs. LEX LUGAR



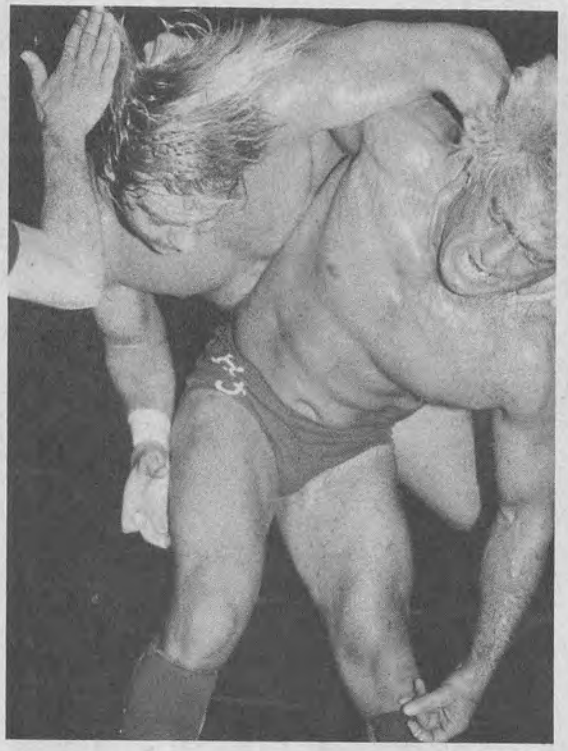
Above: Demonstrating his amateur skills, Barr scores a neat takedown. Below: The Southern champion stuns his challenger with a backdrop.

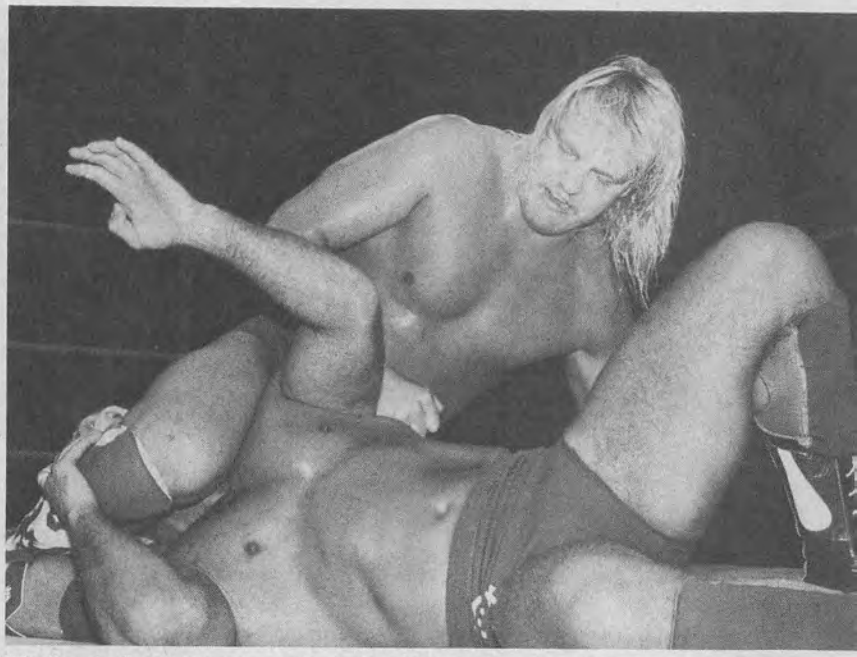


Lugar, who had been defeated by Barr a month earlier for the title, used his awesome strength to get back in the match. Above: Lex easily wins a test of strength. Below: Lugar nearly breaks Barr's jaw with an elbow.

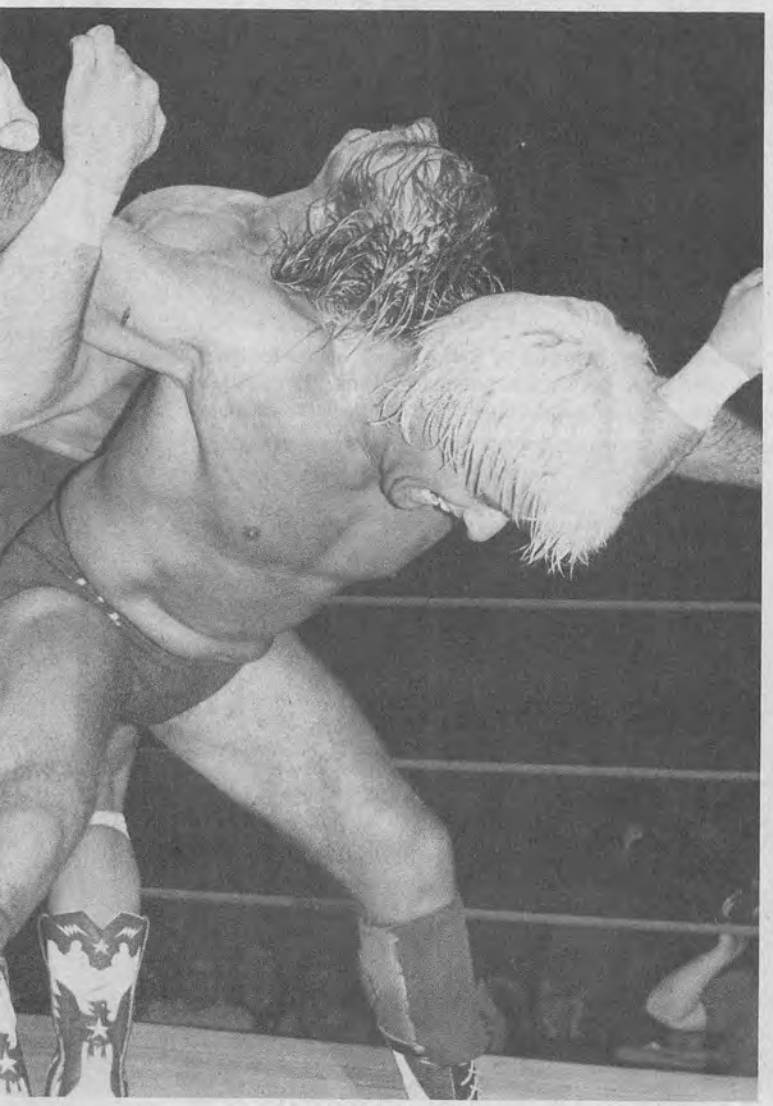


RIC FLAIR vs. BARRY WINDHAM

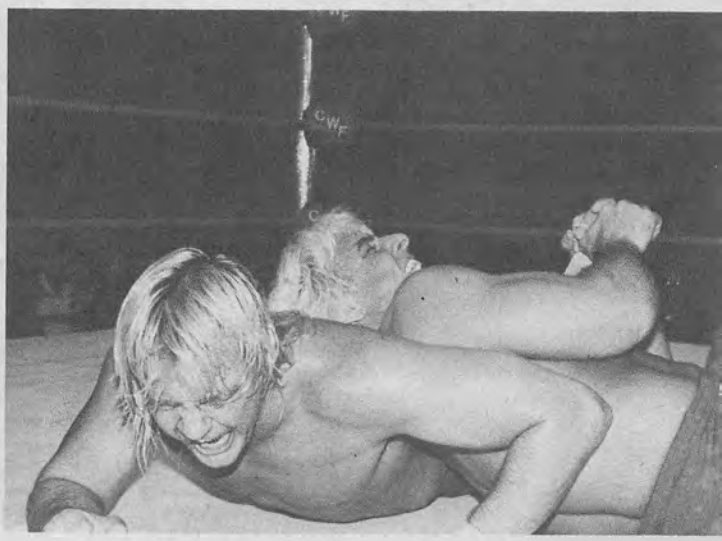


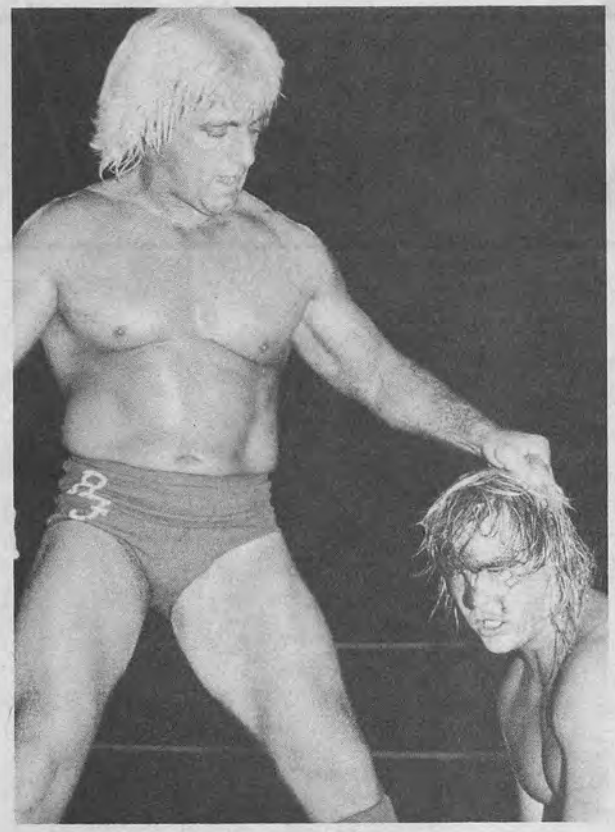


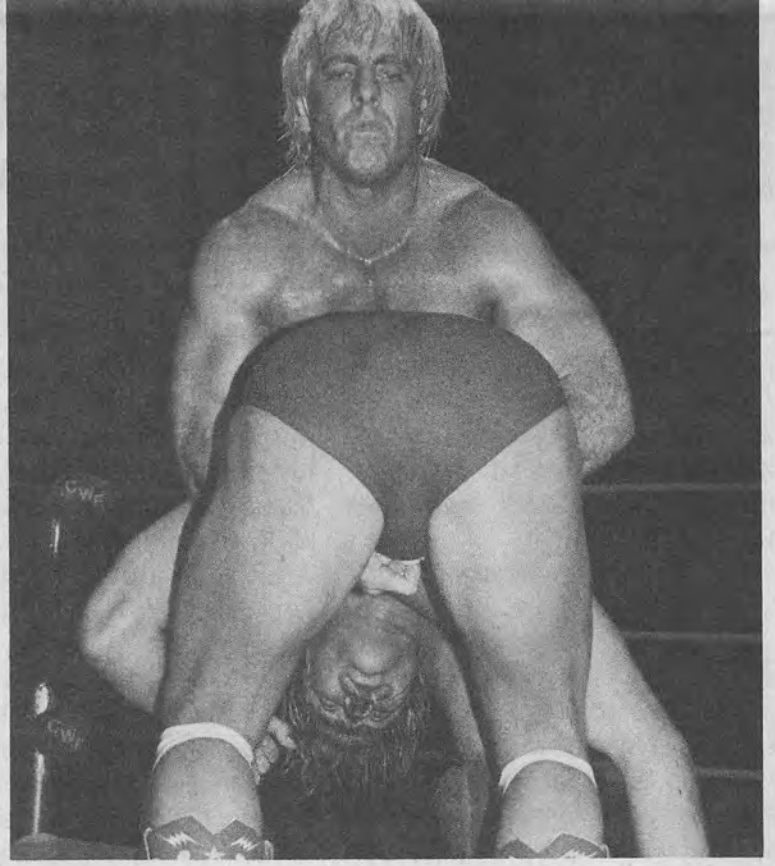
Windham's first NWA title match in two years was a 42-minute test of endurance and heart. Left: Flair takes Barry over and down with a perfect hiproll. Above: Windham wraps his long muscular legs around the champion's chin.

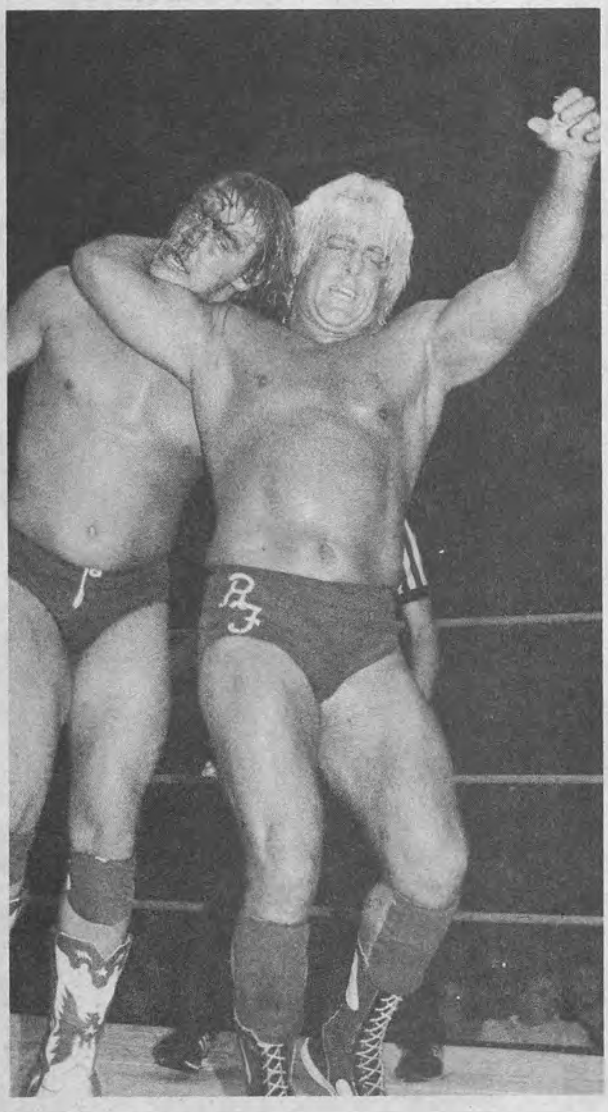


Left: Flair executes a backslide but would not be able to hold Windham for the pin. Above: Windham's fist is cocked and ready to fly. Below: Flair's toehold saps some of Barry's leg strength.

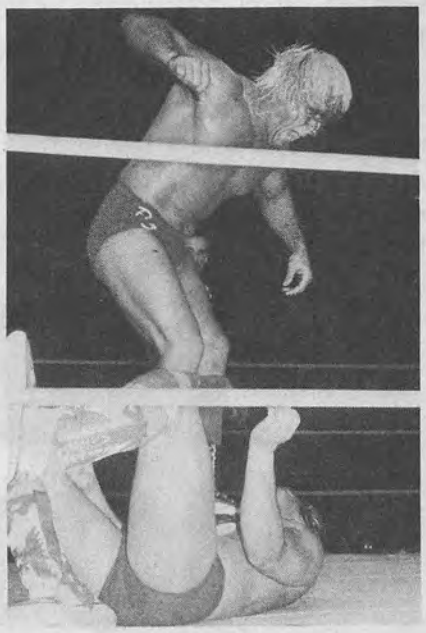


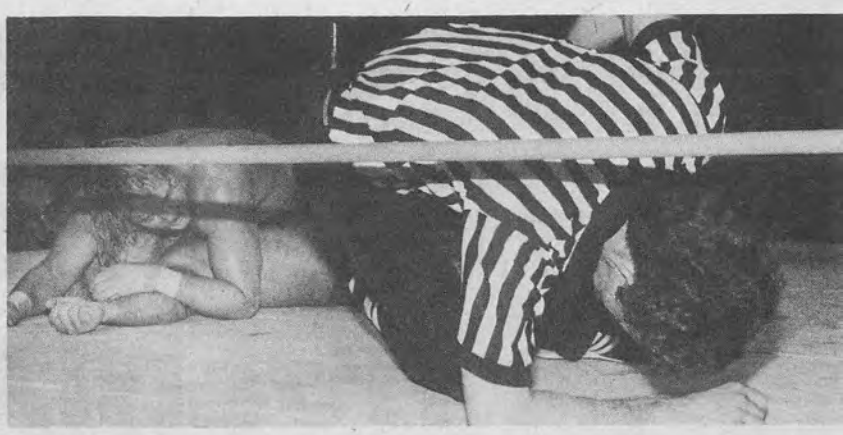






Above left: Flair surveys the damage he has inflicted on his challenger's face. Above right: The champion lifts Windham for a piledriver. Left: Digging deep for a reserve of strength, Flair snaps Windham to the mat. Right: The Nature boy leaps upon Barry's torso with both feet. Below: Barry managed a three-count-plus, but referee Bill Alfonso, hurt in the melee, is out of position.





F·A·L·S·E

By Matt Brock

*"I want to sell you on something I respect and admire more than any single thing . . . **courage**. Courage will get you further than brains, money, or athletic skill. And I'll tell you why . . . "*

—Mickey Mantle

AS MUCH AS ol' Matty loves the mat, when February becomes March and the pitchers and catchers migrate to Florida, this American brain dances crazily with anticipation. If only the baseball season could leap from spring's exhilarating promise forthrightly into the tension of fall, skipping the cumbersome, trying burden of summer. But that is why we return, always, to the instant decisiveness of the ringwars, where won-lost records diminsh in face of the battle itself.

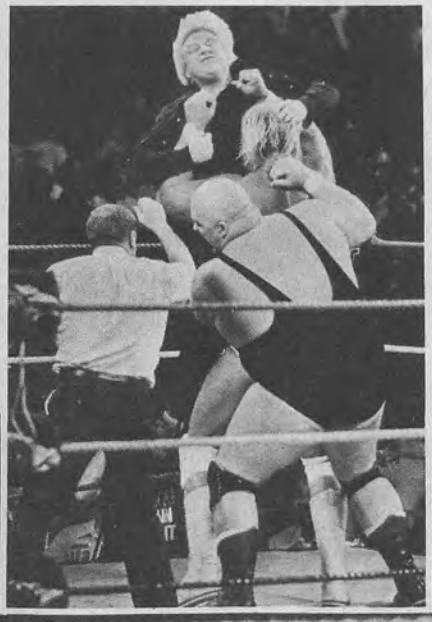
This spring the sports converged. On my flight back from Phoenix, where in terror and awe I watched King Kong Bundy and Magnificent Muraco almost snap Hulk Hogan's back, damaging the champion's vertebrae to a point where one had to wonder if Hogan might ever wrestle again, I reread, for the 300th time, "The Quality Of Courage," Mick's opus to those who endured in struggles against pain and hardship and survived to succeed in their individual sports.

The Mick covers all the games, rendering purple heart tributes to a dozen and a half stalwarts—race car drivers, hoopsters, pigskin carriers, hockey players—just about every sport is represented including his own, in which Mick designates teammate Whitey Ford as the embodiment of courage and bravery.

HULK HOGAN RISES FROM THE ASHES IN PHOENIX!

A·L·A·R·M·!

After a life-threatening beating in Phoenix, Hulk Hogan defied doctors, medical science, and nature, proving once and for all the invincibility of Hulkamania



Opposite page: Hogan shows what becomes of a manager who interferes. Left: Bundy shows Hogan what happens when someone manhandles his manager. Below left: Heenan calls for the first of three avalanches against Hogan, who is slumped in the far corner. Below right: Heenan, Muraco, and Bundy plan their next sadistic move. Bottom: Hogan is examined by ringside medics and The British Bulldogs before being loaded on a stretcher.

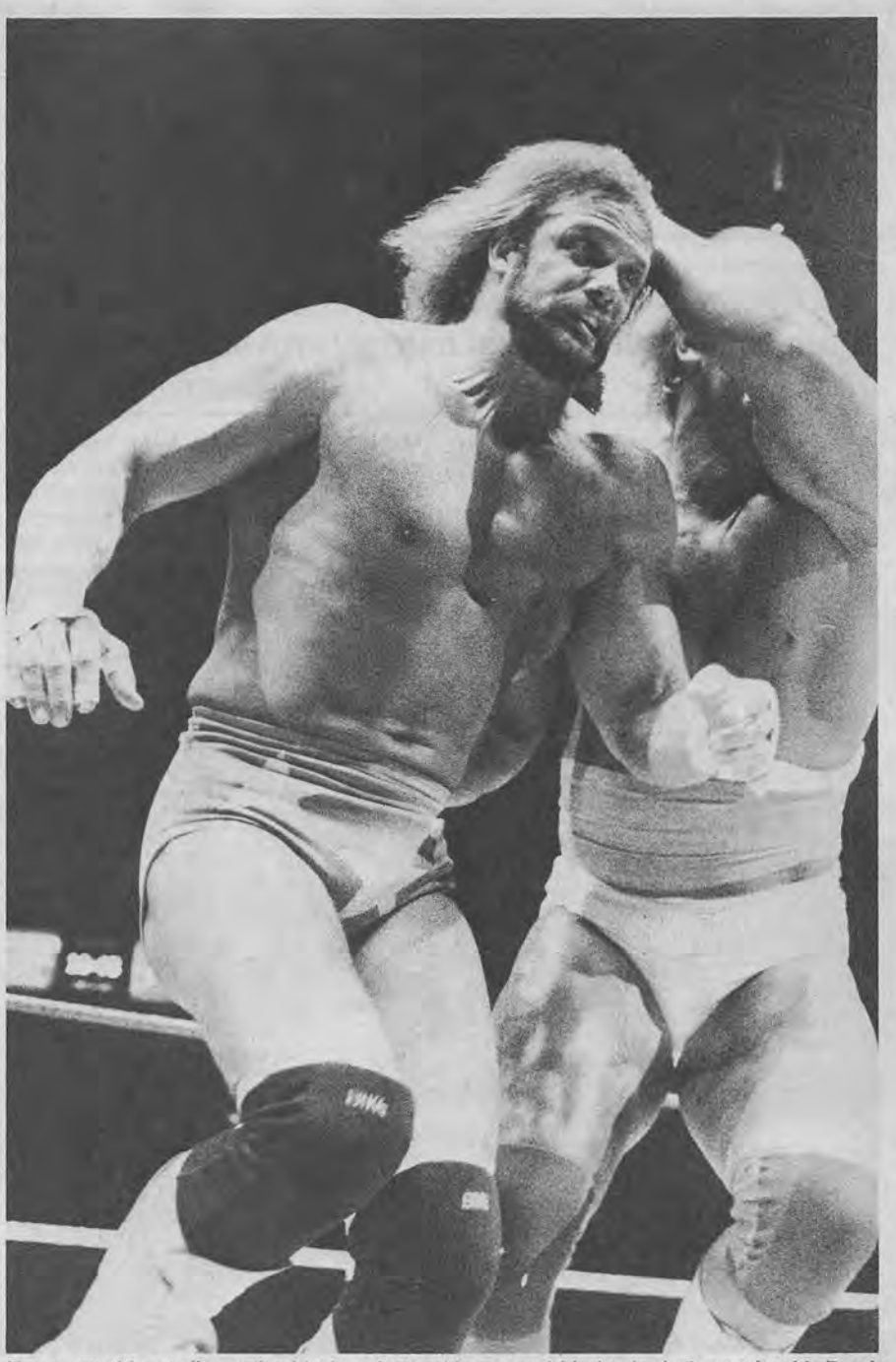
Only those of us who watched and cried for Mantle can fully comprehend the irony of his selection.

Playing on knees that, had they been buildings, would have been condemned and destroyed, Mantle hobbled through 18 years of major league baseball, playing daily with a pain that trainer after doctor, each shaking his head in admiration, called crippling—and meant it. I could jaw about the Mick's time from home to first being quicker than Ricky Henderson's; or how he amassed the sixth leading homer total of all time while missing over 250 games and playing injured in a thousand others, but if I did this would become a baseball story, quite out of place in a wrestling magazine.

So we'll discuss Hogan, but I'll say in parting tribute that if *I* wrote the "Quality Of Courage" today, two of my stories would recall the intrepid cases of Hulk Hogan *and* Mickey Mantle.

That Hogan would not wrestle at Madison Square Garden, two nights after the disaster in Phoenix seemed an obvious fact. I was more stuck on the logistics: How would the WWF handle the 22,000 fans who had already bought tickets, expecting to see Hogan and Randy Savage wrestle in a lumberjack match. Hogan's injuries had occurred in a match across the country that was not to be aired on national TV for another two weeks. When no announcement was made on television or in the newspapers, I feared a riot might take place. Wrestling fans are notoriously short-tempered, and for Hogan to simply not appear might be the spark to set them off.

When Hogan *did appear*, in wrestling gear no less, my fears redoubled. This was the same man that had been hospitalized two nights earlier. Hogan, actually, looked sensational in his match that evening against Muraco. He was going for a certain pin when Bobby Heenan, who was filling in as the challenger's manager for the ailing Mr. Fuji, entered the ring to break up the pin. Hogan, whose hatred for Heenan goes back to their AWA days, grabbed the manager by the throat and lifted him into the air. From behind, King Kong Bundy, another Heenan charge, rushed into the ring and double-fisted the champion from behind.

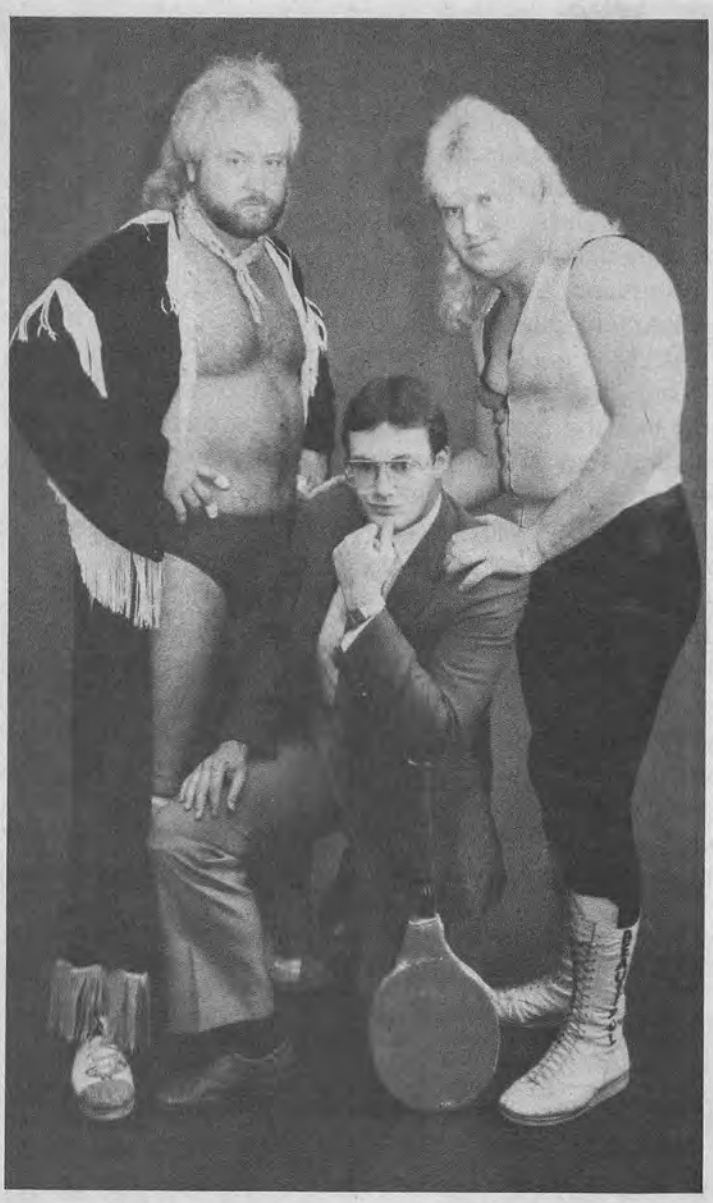


Hogan would not disappoint his fans by backing out of his lumberjack match with Randy Savage at Madison Square Garden. His ribs taped and obviously suffering great pain, the true "Macho Man" flings Savage across the ring.

Muraco grabbed Hogan's arms from the ring apron and held him face-first against the turnbuckles while the 446-pounder delivered three consecutive avalanches. Hogan slumped to the canvas unconscious, but that did not stop Bundy. Before he would call it an evening, he would crush Hogan with two devastating big splashes. Hogan had to be removed on a stretcher.

Now, with the exception of an ace bandage around his midsection, the WWF champ seemed no worse for wear.

(Continued on page 52)



10 REASONS WHY THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS ARE BETTER THAN THE ROAD WARRIORS

The Road Warriors have set their sights on The Midnight Express and the NWA World tag team belts. But the Express' manager, Jim Cornette, feels there are plenty of reasons Hawk and Animal don't have a chance of winning that championship. Here, in Cornette's own words, are 10 of them

By Jim Cornette

ANYONE WITH ANY iota of intelligence should understand that Loverboy Dennis and Beautiful Bobby, The Midnight Express, are *the* greatest tag team in the world. Ownership is nine-tenths of the law, people, and my men have the belts of which *everyone* in tag team wrestling is envious: The NWA World tag team championship.

And now I hear that The Road Warriors are looking for us. Well, we're right here, but we have a very busy schedule, Paul Ellering, very busy. We might be able to fit you in around, say, November or December. But don't even bother signing a contract to wrestle us, Paul, because there's no chance of you winning. The Midnight Express are simply the better team. You don't believe me? Let me give you 10 pieces of evidence.

Number one. ***Pride.*** It takes pride to be a winner. Pride in one's self, and pride in one's abilities. Loverboy Dennis and Beautiful Bobby are loaded with ability, so they have a lot to be proud about. But Hawk and Animal? Don't make me laugh! If they have so much pride, how come

Condrey holds Superstar Graham in place as Eaton springs from the turnbuckles. The Midnight Express takes pride in its precision teamwork.

they hide their faces with paint the way they do? I'll tell you why: It's because they're embarrassed for themselves. Hey, if I had a haircut and a mug like theirs, I'd hide my face, too!

Number two: *Strength.* Sure, I'll give the Warriors credit. They're strong. Big deal. But you know something? They're *too* strong. Yeah, that's right, too strong. They're musclebound. They concentrate more on maneuvering an opponent into position to press them into the air.

Cornette believes that the Warriors' strength, demonstrated by Hawk against Jerry Lawler, would work against them in a match with his men.

Believe me, Loverboy and Beautiful are not about to be caught in that position, and besides, they are certainly not afraid of heights.

Number three: *Me.* I am the strategic genius of professional wrestling. I was named Manager of the Year by the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* magazine; Paul Ellering wasn't. The fans may be stupid, but they're not dumb. They know that the cream rises to the top, and they know that I am the best at what I do. It is because of me that The Midnight Express are the NWA World tag team champions.

Number four: *Experience.* I don't have to list all the championship achievements of my Midnights, do I? More regional titles than the Warriors have nick marks in their scalps from shaving. And we own the NWA World belts. What belts do the Warriors have? Zilch. Nada. Squat. Nil. No mas. Null and void. Hey—that's a good pair of names for them; not Hawk and Animal, Null and Void!

Number five: *Money.* Paul Ellering talks up a good game, but I never see him wearing anything but a ratty old T-shirt. Me? I'm in a fresh new suit every night. Mamma gives me all the money I need, not only for new suits, but to train the Midnights to be the best tag team they can possibly be. I'm sure the Warriors' training schedule isn't half as strenuous as ours.

Number six: *The bombs away.* Beautiful Bobby's maneuver is *the* singlemost devastating finishing maneuver in the sport. Forget about the Warriors' clotheslines, *this* is the move that makes tag team wrestling click. Let's see Hawk or Animal—or Ellering!—get up from one of these.

Eaton's "bombs away," according to his manager, is the "singlemost devastating finishing maneuver in the sport." Cornette envisions Eaton flattening one of the Warriors' broad chests with the maneuver.

Condrey bends Tommy Rogers' back across his knee. "Loverboy" has the ability to inflict tremendous punishment on an opponent while staying within the framework of the rules. To Jim Cornette, this is scientific wrestling.

Number seven: ***Science.*** We'll blind 'em with science, courtesy of Loverboy Dennis. We're not talking skinny Rock 'n' Rolls here, Dennis is a solid man with solid scientific wrestling skills. He'll have the Warriors wrapped up in knots trying to defend, and you know something? They *can't* defend. It's a losing proposition.

Number eight: ***Quality.*** Look, we beat the *second* best tag team in wrestling: The Rock 'n' Roll Express. I've never said that the Rock 'n' Rolls aren't good, I've only said that we're better. Twin sons of different mothers, that's Dennis and Bobby. And they have experience against top-flight championship competition. Who have the Warriors beat to capture the NWA World tag team title? Nobody! Who did they beat for their only world title, the AWA tag title? Crusher and Baron Von Raschke, a pair of Medicare cases that my Midnights could polish off in less than a minute. Their cause is hopeless against us.

Number nine: ***The fans.*** We don't care about the fans. The Warriors claim they don't either, but they do. I've charted their interview and match reactions on a multi-leveled socio-psychological measurement scale, and I've found that if they continue on the track they're on, they'll be engaging in downright pandering to the fans in six to eight months. The mighty Legion of Doom. Ha! They're as weakened by the fans' cheers as Superman is by Kryptonite.

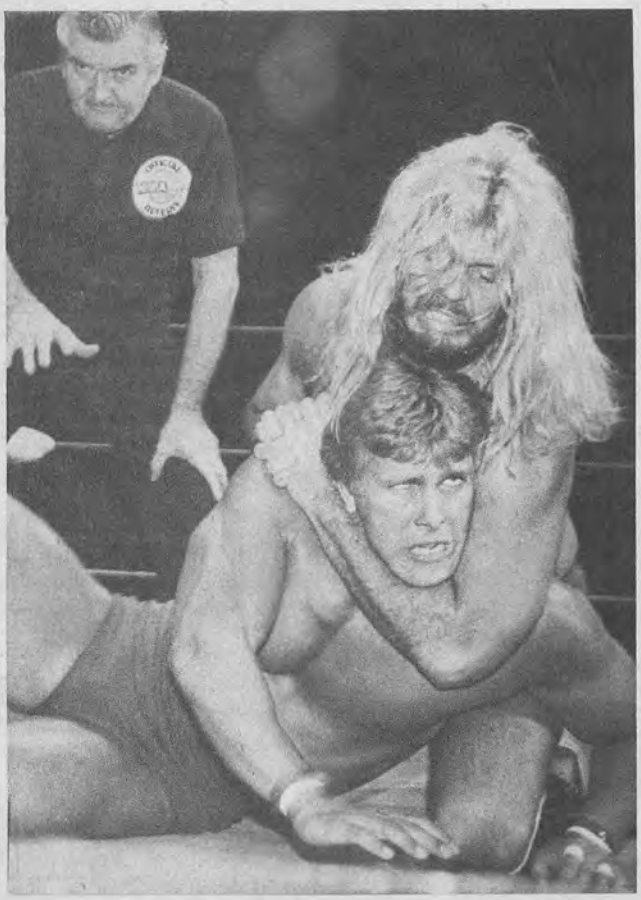
Number 10: ***Common sense.*** Look, all you have to do is see The Midnight Express in action, then look at the Warriors in a match, and your own common sense, if you have any, will tell you that we are the better team. It's obvious to even the most ignorant and misinformed wrestling fan. We'll be able to outmaneuver them, outhustle them, and we'll be able to take them to the limit in a test of endurance. The Warriors are used to skinny squash opponents on television. Well, we're no skinny squash opponent, we're The Midnight Express, and we're the best tag team in the sport. Our NWA World tag team belts prove it, and your common sense should tell you that. But then again, Paul Ellering and Hawk and Animal aren't known for an abundance of common sense—or else they wouldn't be foolish enough to try and take our belts away from us. □

The Road Warriors look great against mediocre opponents, points out Cornette. But, as the manager says, the NWA World tag team champions are far from mediocre.

Eaton dominates Robert Gibson of The Rock 'n' Roll Express. Cornette calls the Rock 'n' Rolls the second best tag team in wrestling and feels that his team has beaten better quality opposition than The Road Warriors have.

Flying High Again:

WHY DO THE EXPERTS CONTINUE TO UNDERRATE THE FABULOUS FREEBIRDS?



THE INHABITANTS OF this exclusive North Dallas enclave, many of whom need a packed lunch to get from one end of their homes to the other, are up in arms. At $25,000 a month, The Fabulous Freebirds are leasing the old Ozelmeyer estate and have turned the sprawling, brick and marble, lake-lined mansion into a personal fiefdom of decadence, a training camp of abominable and relentless degradation.

"Last night, around 4 a.m., my wife and I were awoken by this abnormal screech and whoop," said neighbor Benson Heidigger, scion of the oil rich Houston Heidiggers, a family whose reported net worth is rumored to hover between $300 and $400 million. "We ran out on the grounds and knew right away where to look."

"They're nothing but *monstrosities*. They're just like *animals,*" Heidigger's wife, Priscilla, interrupted. This *used* to be a nice neighborhood."

"We looked up," continued Heidigger, "and there coming down the road was an elephant, thumping calmly down the street *as if this were Kenya or something*. Its trunk was painted a bright pink, and over it was draped a tremendous Confederate flag. On top of the beast was this huge, hairy man—actually, we're not so certain it was a man."

"It was something you'd see in one of those museums of natural history," added Priscilla.

The winds and eddys of fame sharpen and gust without warning and the latest breeze returned The Fabulous Freebirds to their familiar perch, high atop the wrestling world.

"The man stood up—he was naked—and as I shielded Priscilla's eyes he lifted up a bottle of whiskey, took a large gulp—quite a large gulp actually—and bowed, rather elegantly, to us. He then shouted something, and the elephant turned immediately around and they bounded back up the hill. I didn't know whether to call the police or the ASPCA."

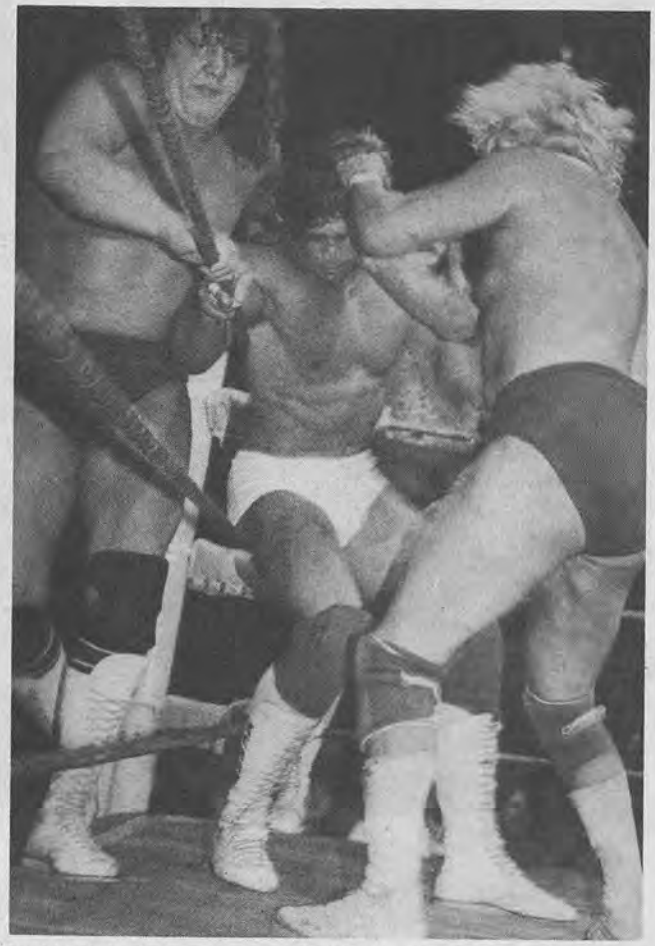
The man, of course, was Michael Hayes, acknowledged leader and chief rascal of The Fabulous Freebirds. He denies none of it. "The boys and I got a little outta hand last night," Hayes said smugly. "We must have gone through a case of Jack."

The Freebirds, who have used the sunrise in the past as an excuse to party, now find their delinquent jubilees legitimized. After several months of relative silence, months during which the team was lambasted by critics as being "washed up," "burnt out," and "long gone," The Freebirds upset Kevin and Kerry Von Erich and Brian Adidas to capture the World Class Six-Man tag team title. The 'Birds, whose real sustenance is not the booze but the soothing embers of the limelight, once again find themselves atop the wrestling world.

"It's like we never left," says Terry Gordy.

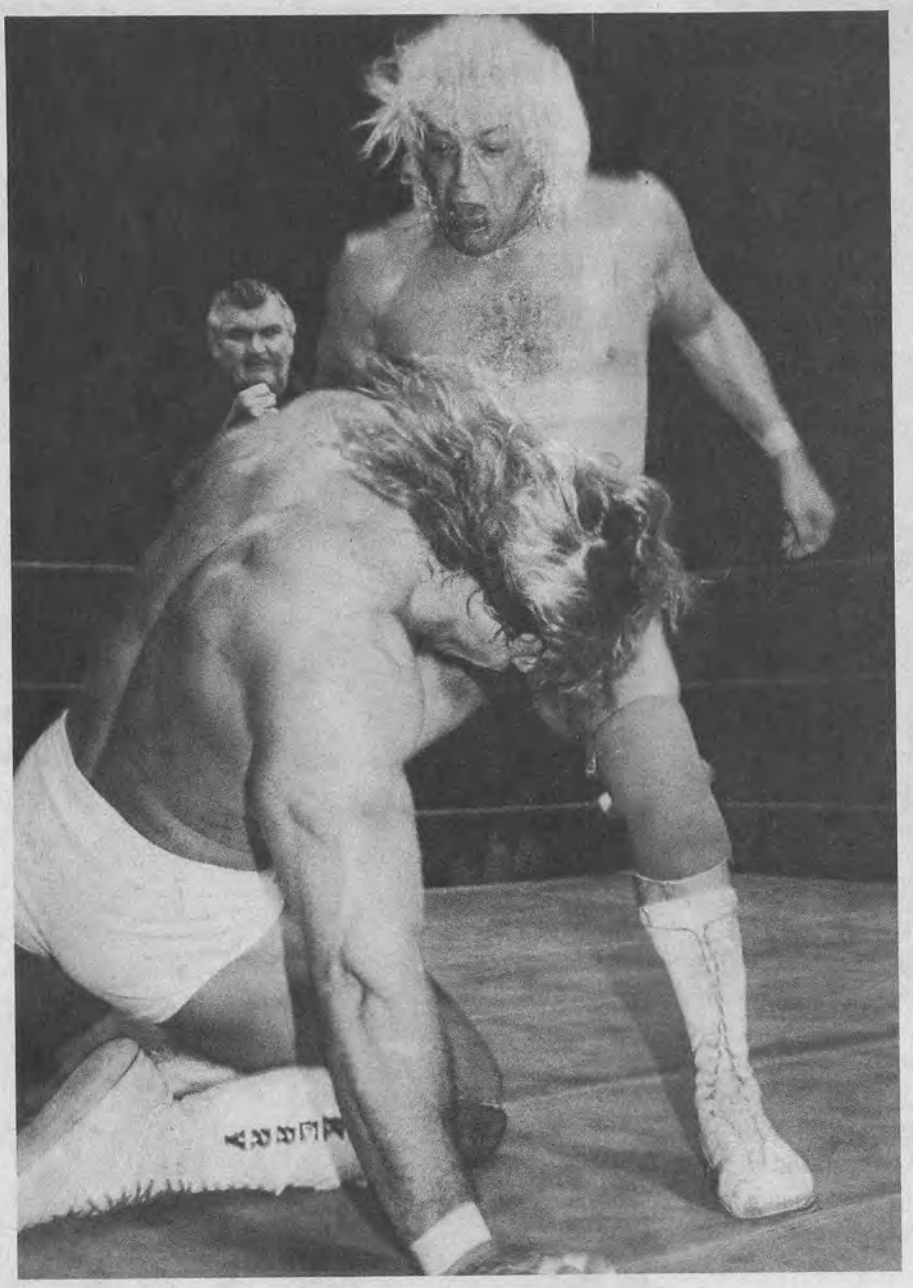
"We never did, the hell with what people thought," incorrectly added Buddy Roberts, because the Freebirds certainly did retreat from the headlines, although not for a lack of activity. The Freebirds worked together in the AWA, and then Hayes signed for a series of title shots against then-AWA champion Rick Martel, while Roberts wrestled in singles matches in Texas and Gordy worked in Japan.

"We couldn't believe the stuff being written about us," Hayes cried. "Just because we separated for a while, we were treated like we were all finished. It's been like that throughout our career. People love getting on our case. They're so intimidated by The Freebirds, so jealous of our success, that they jump like trained seals when they think we're breaking up.



Buddy Roberts backs Kerry Von Erich into the Freebird corner where he is assisted by Terry Gordy and Michael Hayes (above). Lance Von Erich's eyes roll into his head as Hayes' chinlock drops around his throat (opposite page).

Photos by Buddy Myers



Kerry sinks to his knees under a flurry of blows by Roberts (left). Gordy shows Lance how he got the nickname "Bamm Bamm" (above).

"And other wrestlers fuel the rumors because they're jealous of the way we train."

For those readers aspiring to the rank of professional athlete, the Freebird training program should largely be ignored. The Freebirds have installed a ring in the Ozelmeyer library, a room once host to a cocktail party attended by then-President of the United States Lyndon Johnson. Around the littered remains of last night's orgiastic fete lie dumbells, training mats, jump ropes, and Nautilus machines.

"The 'Birds have never believed in strict training regimens," Hayes would have us believe. "You get a guy like Kerry Von Erich. He's pretty to look at with his cut muscles, but I'm willing to wager a month's rent that I attract as many girls as he does, even with a little gut.

"But, that's not the point. You got the Von Erichs, who all watch what they eat, work out 12 hours a day, get eight hours of sleep—for what? We kick their butts from one turnbuckle to another.

"Show him how *we* train, Bamm Bamm."

Gordy picked up a turkey leg from the floor, dusted it off, and chewed on it. He washed down the day-old poultry with a slug of flat Lowenbrau, moved slowly to the 50-pound dumbells, picked one up, and reeled off a set of 15 quick curls. When he was finished, he threw the weight across the room, where his partner Roberts, accustomed to the routine, caught it and muscled out a set of his own. "People can't stand it because we have so much damn fun," Hayes said. "I'll be damned if I'm gonna spend my creative years tied to some stupid weight machine. Life is for raising hell and getting paid for it. Go tell that to the Heidiggers and the Von Erichs. Tell whoever wants to know that The Freebirds are alive and kicking out the jams better than ever. Anyone who underestimates us does so at their own risk. We are here to stay." □

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

The World Class title situation: You may already have read the story in the July 1986 edition of our sister magazine *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* about the World Class area pulling out of the NWA. If not, you should; the story explains the ramifications of a development that affects the entire wrestling world.

What we'd like to discuss here is the immediate effect this development will have on the ratings, and the historical precedents for such a decision.

Rick Rude

The most obvious immediate effect is the designation of **Rick Rude's** title in our ratings. Until now, Rude's title has been called the "World Class American Championship." Since the World Class area upgraded that belt to what they claim is world title status (and we'll get to that two paragraphs from now), we will now denote Rude's title as simply the "World Class Championship."

As far as the World Class ratings themselves are concerned, things will remain pretty much the same. Instead of the World Class American champion occupying the number one spot, now the World Class champion will be rated number one. The World Class Texas title will remain in the number two position, and the three through 10 positions will be filled by the top area competitors.

Now—the controversial topic of world championship status. The situation, in a nutshell, is this: The World Class area has designated their World Class American champion to be the World Class Wrestling Association World champion. Our dilemma becomes: Do we recognize this title as the fourth world championship?

Right now, the answer is no. The editorial staff has discussed this question thoroughly, and we feel that it is not appropriate to automatically elevate the World Class title to the level of a world championship.

This is not a unique situation. Through history, world champions have been declared by various wrestling associations and have not been recognized by fans and professional observers of the sport as world titlists. Instead, the fans and the media waited to see if those titles would stand the test of time and *earn* world championship status. Most haven't. **Mil Mascaras'** International Wrestling Association title (circa 1975) is one example; **Randy Savage's** International Championship Wrestling title (circa 1979) is another.

Interestingly enough, this issue was examined in the very first "Ratings Analysis" column, printed in the September 1983 edition of our sister publication *The Wrestler.* At the time, **Adrian Adonis** was claiming to be the "undisputed world heavyweight champion" as the result of winning a tournament sponsored by Southwest Championship Wrestling.

Most relevant to the question of the World Class Championship is the following paragraph from that first column:

Will we recognize this new championship to a greater degree in the future? That depends. Will Adonis, or the man who eventually dethrones Adonis, defend the belt against true world-class opposition around the world? Will he be willing to defend against rulebreakers and scientific wrestlers? Will he bring a sense of dignity and respect to the title that will virtually demand that the championship be recognized as important?

Hulk Hogan

At the time those words were written, we only recognized the NWA and AWA titles as world championships. In the July 1985 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling,* "Ratings Analysis" invoked that very first column and opened up the question of whether the WWF title should be granted world title status. The discussion took place in "Ratings Analysis" for several months. And in the October 1985 edition of *Sports Review Wrestling,* **Hulk Hogan's** WWF title was referred to as the "WWF World Championship" for the very first time.

The point is this: For now, Rude's World Class title will be viewed as certainly one of the most important titles in the sport, but it will not be regarded as a *world* title. Which is not to say that world title status may not be granted at some time in the future. It all depends on where and how the World Class champion defends the title, and how the wrestling world at large reacts to the actions of the World Class area in general, and the World Class champion in particular.

As the old saying goes: "Only time will tell." We suppose it will.

The address for mail: We're anxiously awaiting your comments on this issue's story about World Class seceding from the NWA, and on this edition of "Ratings Analysis." Send all those cards and letters to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Sports Review Wrestling;* Box 48; Rockville Center, NY 11571. □

OFFI
WRESTLIN

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board.

Bruiser Brody

TOP10

1—**RIC FLAIR**
NWA World champion
243, Minneapolis, MN

2—**HULK HOGAN**
WWF World champion
302, Venice Beach, CA

3—**STAN HANSEN**
AWA World champion
322, Borger, TX

4—**MAGNUM T.A.**
U.S. champion
245, Chesapeake, VA

5—**RANDY SAVAGE**
Intercontinental champion
245, Sarasota, FL

6—**KERRY VON ERICH**
No. 1 contender: World Class title
260, Denton, TX

7—**DUSTY RHODES**
No 1 contender: National title
302, Austin, TX

8—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
No. 4 contender: NWA title
275, Moscow, Russia

9—**RICK RUDE**
World Class champion
246, Robbinsdale, MN

10—**BRUISER BRODY**
No. 3 contender: AWA title
284, Albuquerque, NM

TAG TEAMS

1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
No. 1 contenders to AWA and NWA World tag team titles
Combined weight: 567 pounds

2—**DENNIS CONDREY & BOBBY EATON**
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 472 pounds

3—**GREG VALENTINE & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
WWF World tag team champions
Combined weight: 511 pounds

4—**SCOTT HALL & CURT HENNIG**
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 525 pounds

5—**STEVE WILLIAMS & TED DiBIASE**
Mid-South tag team champions
Combined weight: 542 pounds

6—**DYNAMITE KID & DAVEY BOY SMITH**
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title
Combined weight: 461 pounds

7—**RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON**
No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 453 pounds

8—**TOMMY ROGERS & BOBBY FULTON**
Mid-Southern tag team champions
Combined weight: 462 pounds

9—**IVAN & NIKITA KOLOFF**
No. 3 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 524 pounds

10—**STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE**
No. 1 contenders to vacant U.S. tag team title
Combined weight: 499 pounds

NWA, AWA, and WWF ratings, in addition to the regional ratings from around the country, are based on the official current position of challengers to the top title in each category. (Certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings). Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and mail that comes to our offices.

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA

2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX

3—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec

4—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia

5—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

6—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX

7—**DICK SLATER**
235, Tampa, FL

8—**LEX LUGAR**
280, Chicago, IL

9—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX

10—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**
245, Portland, OR

AWA

World Champion:
STAN HANSEN
322, Borger, TX

1—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC

2—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec

3—**BRUISER BRODY**
284, Albuquerque, NM

4—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
245, Beverly Hills, CA

5—**SCOTT HALL**
290, Minneapolis, MN

6—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA

7—**NORD THE BARBARIAN**
316, parts unknown

8—**BORIS ZUKHOV**
254, Leningrad, Russia

9—**MARTY JANNETTY**
224, Columbus, GA

10—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA

1—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL

2—**KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ

3—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA

4—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI

5—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX

6—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL

7—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HA

8—**TERRY FUNK**
247, Amarillo, TX

9—**JESSE VENTURA**
270, Muscle Beach, CA

10—**ADRIAN ADONIS**
303, New York, NY

WORLD CHAMPIONSHI

1—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA

2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX

3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

4—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec

5—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia

6—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL

7—**ARN ANDERSON**
239, Minneapolis, MN

8—**SAM HOUSTON**
218, Waco, TX

9—**KONGA THE BARBARIAN**
265, Chicago, IL

10—**BARON VON RASCHKE**
271, East Germany

CIAL
G RATINGS

WORLD CLASS
1—RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN
2—THE GRAPPLER
241, parts unknown
3—KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX
4—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX
5—BRUISER BRODY
284, Albuquerque, NM
6—LANCE VON ERICH
260, Dallas, TX
7—THE MISSING LINK
273, parts unknown
8—BRIAN ADIDAS
238, Denton, TX
9—ICEMAN PARSONS
242, St. Louis, MO
10—STEVE REGAL
238, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

MID-SOUTH
1—DICK SLATER
235, Tampa, FL
2—HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY
3—DICK MURDOCH
270, Waxahachie, TX
4—TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL
5—STEVE WILLIAMS
265, Tulsa, OK
6—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NB
7—MASKED SUPERSTAR
282, parts unknown
8—BUZZ SAWYER
240, St. Petersburg, FL
9—TARRAS BULBA
237, Outer Mongolia
10—BRETT SAWYER
242, St. Petersburg, FL

FLORIDA
1—LEX LUGAR
280, Chicago, IL
2—KENDALL WINDHAM
220, Sweetwater, TX
3—JESSE BARR
243, Portland, OR
4—BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX
5—KEVIN SULLIVAN
239, Boston, MA
6—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
310, Sweetwater, TX
7—THE CUBAN ASSASSIN
236, Cuba
8—MAHA SINGH
273, Tampa, FL
9—TYREE PRIDE
231, Haiti
10—MIKE GRAHAM
229, Tampa, FL

MID-SOUTHERN
1—BILL DUNDEE
214, Melbourne, Australia
2—BUDDY LANDELL
236, Los Angeles, CA
3—DUTCH MANTEL
242, Bucksnorth, TN
4—AUSTIN IDOL
240, Las Vegas, NV
5—ABDUL KHADAFY
265, Libya
6—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
7—DIRTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
8—JOS LeDUC
280, Godbout, Quebec
9—RICK CASEY
239, San Antonio, TX
10—LARRY HAMILTON
232, Tampa, FL

CONTINENTAL
1—EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET
227, South Wales
2—ROBERT FULLER
238, Dyresburg, TN
3—NORVELL AUSTIN
239, Pensacola, FL
4—BRAD ARMSTRONG
226, Marietta, GA
5—JERRY STUBBS
235, Pensacola, FL
6—TIM HORNER
235, Morristown, TN
7—TOMMY RICH
232, Hendersonville, TN
8—JIMMY GOLDEN
234, Montgomery, AL
9—JOHNNY RICH
238, Hendersonville, TN
10—ROBERTO SOTO
231, San Juan, Puerto Rico

NORTHWEST
1—TOM ZENK
237, Robbinsdale, MN
2—RIP OLIVER
245, Tampa, FL
3—BILLY JACK HAYNES
245, Portland
4—BOBBY JAGGERS
265, Dunlap, KS
5—MIKE MILLER
260, Memphis, TN
6—BRADY BOONE
236, Charlotte, NC
7—SCOTT DORING
255, Minneapolis, MN
8—THE ASSASSIN
249, parts unknown
9—MOONDOG MORETTI
245, Boise, ID
10—COCOA SAMOA
239, Samoa

MOST POPULAR
1—HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA
2—KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX
3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
4—PAUL ORNDORFF
253, Brandon, FL
5—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA
6—JUNKYARD DOG
260, New Orleans, LA
7—RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec
8—BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX
9—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX
10—TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL

MOST HATED
1—KING KONG BUNDY
446, Atlantic City, NJ
2—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN
3—RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL
4—STAN HANSEN
322, Borger, TX
5—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX
6—RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN
7—NIKITA KOLOFF
276, Moscow, Russia
8—JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL
9—ADRIAN ADONIS
303, New York, NY
10—DICK SLATER
235, Tampa, FL

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 6)

cult to argue with the beauty of Brock's prose. Like his whiskey, Matt Brock gains vintage with age.

HELEN OVERSTREET
New York

Scott Hall, slamming Larry Zbyszko, is going to become wrestling's biggest star and raise the level of the entire AWA, writes Lolita Jones.

HALLMARK OF THE AWA

Scott Hall will save the AWA. The venerated organization has failed to change with the times, but Scotty Hall will rescue it from almost certain oblivion. The alliance that let Hulk Hogan get away will not repeat its mistake. One day Hogan will be opening the door to Hall's limousine, calling him sir. One day soon, after Hall munches on Stan Hansen and becomes AWA World champion, he will wrestle Hulk Hogan and defeat him. Then, afterward, he will offer Hogan the job as his chauffeur and Hogan will accept. Hogan will speak similar words as the famous rock critic who watched Bruce Springsteen play music 11 years ago: "I have seen the future of wrestling and his name is Scott Hall," Hogan will say, and then he will retire, proving to all that he is smarter than his looks indicate.

Scott Hall shall control the world of wrestling, re-establishing the AWA as

(Continued on page 49)

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All this and much more . . . in the July 1986 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 47)

the preeminent alliance in the world. Then he will retire, rich and respected, intact and revered. This is what will happen, as it will happen.

LOLITA JONES
Madison, WA

If Baby Doll wants to be involved in wrestling, reader Bart Merton feels she should do so as a wrestler.

BABY DOLL SHOULD WRESTLE!

Please, someone, anyone remove Baby Doll from this sport. Ever since she cuddled with Gino Hernandez, she's been nothing but an offensive oaf whose contributions have yet to amount to anything. Her liason with Dusty Rhodes is undigestible, which is more than either of them can say of the food they've crammed down their throats recently. Dusty looks like he's wearing an inflatable suit whenever he waddles into the ring, Baby Doll is just plain chunky. However, Dusty Rhodes can wrestle. What can Baby Doll do besides stand around like a lump? She can cheat pretty good, that's for sure, and for that reason alone she should be banished from the sport. If she wants so badly to be involved with wrestling, let her trade in her spandex for a pair of lace-up boots—let the bigshot become a wrestler.

Without anyone to hide behind (and Chicago could hide behind Dusty Rhodes), she'd learn that wrestling is more grunts and blood and pain than the glamorous personal playground she takes it for. For the sake of the sport, kick her out on her keester. Believe me, in her present condition, it won't hurt her when she lands.

BART MERTON
Downingtown, PA □

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BELTS

(Continued from page 27)

idly behind the efforts of Tyree Pride as he continues his reign as Bahama Islands champion. Chants of "Ty-ree! Ty-ree!" were heard as Pride retained his title by pinning challenger Ron Slinker via a cross-bodyblock at the 3:12 mark.

Kendall Windham vs. Prince Iaukea: Then-Florida champion Windham weathered a tough challenge from Iaukea, second-generation grappler and son of King Curtis Iaukea. The match was very scientific, with Windham and Iaukea trading armlocks and legholds for several minutes. Windham scored the pinfall victory at the 9:27 mark, retaining his championship. (Note: five days later, Kendall would lose the Florida title to The Cuban Assassin.)

Dennis Brown vs. The White Ninja: Brown's NWA junior heavyweight title was on the line in this exciting contest of fast-paced skill and aerial expertise. The Ninja's aerial tactics nearly won him the title as he performed a triple-cartwheel into an elbowdrop that was followed up by a backbreaker and a back somersault from the turnbuckles. Brown kicked out at the two-count. Seconds later, Ninja's hopes for the title were squashed when he was disqualified for backdropping Brown over the top rope at the 10:32 mark.

Lex Lugar vs. Jesse Barr: The Southern title, captured from Lex Lugar only four weeks earlier by Jesse Barr, was on the line in this classic contrast of styles. Lugar won several tests of strength against Barr, but the champion managed to confound his opponent with a scientific onslaught. Lugar attacked Barr with a series of bodyslams and hiprolls, and went for the pin. Barr's foot was on the ropes at the one-count, but Lugar muscled Barr's legs off the ropes and gained a full three from the

referee at the 20:44 point to win the match and regain the Southern title.

Wahoo McDaniel vs. Bruiser Brody: The match may have been brief, but the action could have filled an hour-long contest as Brody and McDaniel went at each other with all guns drawn. The brawl was taken out of the ring several times, and McDaniel received a decision by disqualification when Brody fled the ring for good at the 5:12 mark. McDaniel would not let him away easily, however: Wahoo chased Brody up the runway to the dressing room area, where the brawl continued for several minutes more!

The Road Warriors & Blackjack Mulligan vs. Kevin Sullivan, Mark Lewin, & Bob Roop: Another brief match that quickly degenerated into a wild brawl. The Warriors charged the ring with their typical high-speed frontal attack, and chaos ensued. Large gashes were opened on the heads of Mulligan and Sullivan as chairs, and even the ring steps were used in this war. The referee quickly ruled a double-disqualification, and after just more than six minutes, both teams retreated to their respective dressing rooms—hurling chairs at each other along the way!

Ric Flair vs. Barry Windham: Windham received his first shot at the NWA World title in nearly two years, and he made every second count in this exciting matchup. The battle was pure action all the way as Windham exhibited masterful offensive tactics that had Flair scrambling to find a defense. At one point in the match, Flair "accidentally" bumped the referee out of the ring, no doubt anticipating a disqualification to save his title. But no such ruling was made, and the match continued for nearly 20 more minutes! The battle was taken outside the ring several times, but as the action intensified, both men lost track of the referee's count and the official ruled a double-countout at the 42:51 mark. □

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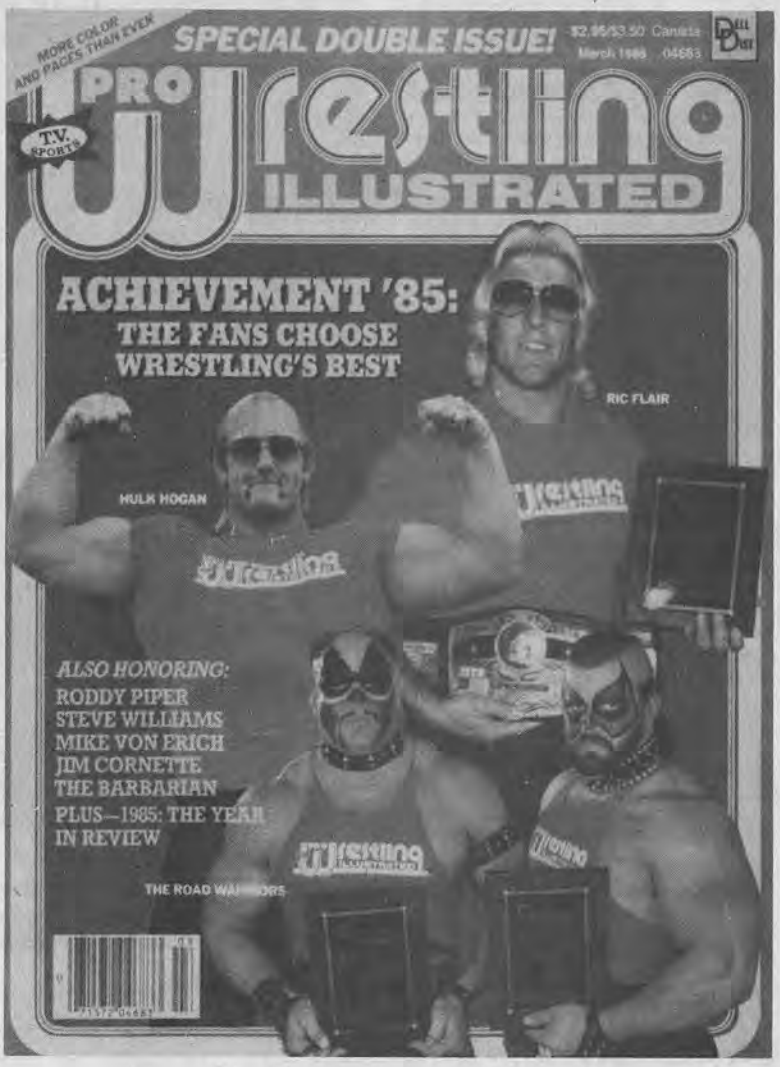

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HULK HOGAN

(Continued from page 36)

Hogan had an easy time in the main event in Phoenix. En route to victory, The Hulkster applies a crushing bearhug against Muraco.

How? How could a body twisted into bone-crushing unconsciousness heal itself sufficiently in 48 hours to wrestle its number one contender? I shivered at the numbing amount of painkillers Hogan must be tranquilized with until I recalled Hogan's absolute abhorrence of needles and drugs. The man won't even take asprin!

The doctor at ringside confided that Hogan had suffered a compound concussion, slight muscle tears, and partial damage to the third and sixth vertabrae—injuries that would hospitalize any other man for weeks. He was under strict medical orders not to wrestle, yet here he was, five minutes away from a lumberjack match against Randy Savage, an opponent who had defeated him in his previous two Garden tries.

Ernest Hemingway once described guts as "grace under pressure," a phrase often applied to contests of sport such as this one. After Hogan denied his pain, after he withstood the attacks of not only Savage, but Bundy at ringisde, after he thrashed "The Macho Man" as soundly as he had ever been thrashed in his career, the description seemed woefully inadequate.

What Hogan had accomplished was nothing less than rise up from the dead—for in Phoenix the man I saw motionless on the mat was certainly wrestling-dead—not merely to survive, but to triumph. Words, not from the ink of Hemmingway and certainly not from my whiskied Papermate, can do justice to the event. It speaks eloquently for itself.

Hogan and Mantle. Mantle and Hogan. Now that would be a tag team. ☐

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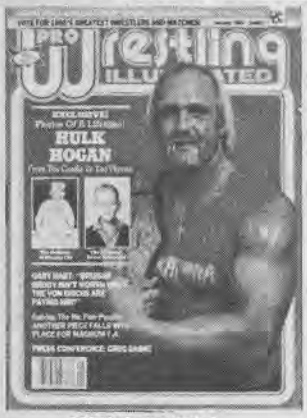

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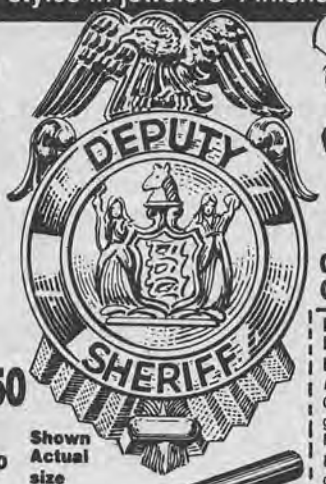

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TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)

rious DDT, as one might think. In fact, Roberts' legend, and his difficulty in locating opponents, has nothing to do with his wrestling style at all.

"It's that damn snake he carries around with him," explained a preliminary wrestler who begged anonymity. "No one wants to go near it. Forget about Jake Roberts. I'd rather be DDT'd 200 times than have that snake wrapped around my neck."

Roberts has threatened to release his pet serpent upon the body of his defeated opponents. Thus far, Roberts, undefeated in the WWF, has had ample opportunity to carry out his threat, but has yet to do it. He carries the snake in a boxed cage to the ring, leaving it on a press table while he dispatches his opponents. Afterward, as his victims writhe about the ring in agony, the expected consequence of the DDT, Roberts brings the cage into the ring and conducts his horrifying threats.

"He must have gone crazy being a fan favorite in the Mid-South," offered one terrified fan. "He's sure making up for lost time."

So far, the specie of the snake has yet to be identified, although a reptile expert who attended the matches one night claims to have caught a glimpse of the slithering creature. "It looked to me like a Gaboon Viper, given its coloration and length," he said. "If it is, and Roberts ever does decide to release it, someone is going to end up dead. The Viper is a docile creature by nature, but when aroused it bares movable, needle-like front fangs almost two inches long.

"His bite is usually fatal."

Whatever happened to Jake "Cruel But Fair" Roberts?

—Alison Corey

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"Our strength and quickness is what will put us over the top," added Michaels. "We're stronger than Morton and Gibson and faster than Condrey and Eaton. And we like to fly. We can beat you in the air or on the ground—it makes no difference to us. We'd love to get a shot at the AWA belts."

—Larry Cohen □

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INQUIRING REPORTER

(Continued from page 12)

a change, someone who'd remember my birthday and hold the car door open for me. I think The Missing Link is tailor-made for me."

Suzanne Emerick, Miami: "A lot of people consider him nothing but a big, ugly bouncer, but to me Cowboy Bob Orton is the living end. Courage and loyalty are the qualities I admire most in a man—if you got them you could

Courage and loyalty are the traits Suzanne Emerick looks for in a man. Cowboy Bob Orton has proven to be such a man during his association with Roddy Piper.

look like a pig in a poke and you'd still be gorgeous to me. People put too much credence into perfect looks. Man, a guy like Cowboy Bob, brave enough to battle Hulk Hogan and Mr. T, strong enough to protect Roddy Piper against his many enemies—he's my kind of guy."

Sunshine impresses Henry Longero as "the girl next door." He would like to go out on an old-fashioned date with this down-to-earth, wholesome girl.

Tim Gallagher, Cleveland: "Man, with all these pert and vivacious vixens running around the ring, who can choose? I'd take any one of them. Wendi Richter? Sure, bring her on. Misty Blue Simmes? Love her, love her, love her. Heck, I'd even date Fabulous Moolah. Imagine the wealth of experience and knowledge she must possess. I must admit, though, if push came to shove, would I really care to date a wrestler? If a girl wants to say no, she'll say no. A wrestler, my God, she might reward your daring with a double-fisted haymaker. On second thought, I'll stay home and watch 'em on TV. It's a lot safer."

Henry Longero, Wake Forest, NC: "Nothing exotic please. Leave Precious and Miss Linda at home. Give me the plain, homespun, white bread and butter looks of Sunshine. There's a girl to dream a future with. White picket fences, couple of kids, meatloaf on the dinner table. Sunshine oozes Old World sincerity—no game playing, no facades, and she's a looker to boot. I'd love to take her to a movie, a milkshake afterward, and end the night swapping dreams on her porch swing. What-d'ya say, Sunshine? Are you game?"

Tina Boolemic, Ogden, UT: "I'll take the classic look of Lance Von Erich over all those other hairy weirdos in the ring. No weak men for this gal. I take mine big with muscles, strong and silent, handsome and dashing. Lance blows his cousins Kerry and Kevin out of the water, and those are two hunkaronies also. In fact, forget wrestling: I'll take Lance Von Erich up on a date if he was a grave digger, zookeeper, or dog catcher." □

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 10)

tag team title from Al and Don Greene . . . Though Bob Roop defeated Southern champion Dick Murdoch in a non-title match, Dick shook off the defeat to defend his belt against Louie Tillet and Dan Miller . . . Hercules Cortez and Red Bastien defended their AWA tag team belts against former champions Mad Dog and Butcher Vachon . . . Dory Funk Jr. retained the NWA championship when he trapped Johnny Valentine in his spinning toehold in the third and deciding fall of their St. Louis match . . . Prof. Toru Tanaka defeated American champion Wahoo McDaniel in a non-title match, but failed in the rematch when the belt was on the line . . . Ray Stevens dropped the U.S. title to Paul Demarco in San Francisco when he was distracted by Demarco's manager, Dr. Ken Ramey . . . One of the most unusual matches of all time took place in Salem, Oregon, when eight wrestlers competed in a battle royal—blindfolded! The battle between the last two contestants, Johnny Boyd and Karl Von Steiger will never be forgotten by Salem fans. Von Steiger broke the rules by lifting his mask and throwing Boyd out of the ring. Steaming mad, Boyd pulled Von Steiger out of the ring where they exchanged blows. Boyd then grabbed Von Steiger, ran him outside in the middle of the street, and rammed the German's head into a parking meter, cutting his head wide open. Karl then ripped off an antenna, jabbed Boyd in the face, and smashed the Australian's head into a car.

Jonathan Boyd awaits medical attention after a melee with Karl Von Steiger that carried out to the streets of Salem, Oregon.

APRIL-JUNE 1976

DUSTY RHODES GOT his wish when he shamed Terry Funk into accepting a Texas Bullrope match. The only drawback was that Terry's NWA title was not at stake. It mattered little to Rhodes, however.

Dusty Rhodes rubs Terry Funk's face along the mat during their Texas Bullrope match. Although Funk's NWA title was not at stake, Rhodes received a great deal of satisfaction from his victory.

He battered Funk without mercy and emerged victorious. "I can beat Funk in any kind of battle and he knows it," said Rhodes. "And next I will beat him in a title match" . . . The Executioners, managed by Capt. Lou Albano, defeated Tony Parisi and Louis Cerdan for the WWF tag team

(Continued on page 60)

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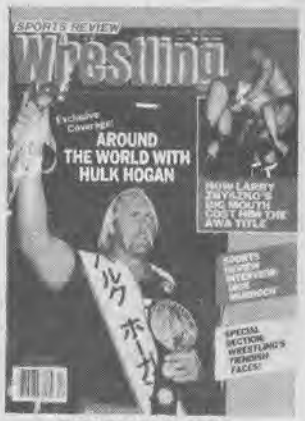

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April 1984/Cover stories: Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki. PLUS: Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/Cover stories: LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins. PLUS: The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Cover stories: Windham-Flair, Gilbert. PLUS: Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Cover stories: Flair-Gordy. PLUS: Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA Tag team tournament.

August 1984/Cover stories: Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes. PLUS: Zbyszko, Von Erich, The Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Cover stories: Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Cover stories: Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video. PLUS: Atlas, Spoiler, historic Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Cover story: Von Erich & Billy Jack. PLUS: Andre, Fabulous Ones, The Summer Wars!

December 1984/Cover stories: Rich-Gilbert, Martel. PLUS: Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class action weekend.

January 1985/Cover stories: Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund. PLUS: Fabulous Ones, *Pro Wrestling USA.*

February 1985/Cover stories: Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts. PLUS: Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Cover story: Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs. PLUS: 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Cover stories: Von Erich-Blackwell, Billy Haynes-Jesse Barr. PLUS: Hart, Irwins, 1985 in Pictures.

May 1985/Cover stories: Albano, Freebirds-Flair. PLUS: Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas closeup.

June 1985/Cover story: Pro Wrestling U.S.A. PLUS: Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Cover stories: Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches. PLUS: Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Cover stories: Flair vs. Nikita. PLUS: Orndorff, Slaughter, Haynes, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Cover stories: Adams vs. Von Erich, Orndorff. PLUS: Sawyer, Kamala, Barr, Atlanta action.

October 1985/Cover stories: Martel vs. Hayes, Richter. PLUS: Savage, Adams, Magnum T.A., Road Warriors.

November 1985/Cover stories: Freebirds vs. Warriors, Mid-South action. PLUS: Billy Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Cover stories: Hogan, Zbyszko vs. Martel. PLUS: Youngblood, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Cover Stories: Abdullah, Randy Savage vs. Tito Santana, Humongous. PLUS: Baron Von Raschke, Terry Taylor, Night in Comiskey Park.

February 1986/Cover stories: Junkyard Dog, 1986 Datebook. PLUS: Nick Patrick, Jim Garvin, Butch Reed.

March 1986/Cover stories: Starrcade '85 with Rhodes vs. Flair, The Russians vs. Rock 'n' Rolls, Tully vs. Magnum. PLUS: Jesse Ventura, Maha Singh, Sunshine.

April 1986/Cover stories: 1985 The Year in Pictures, Rick Martel & Stan Hansen, Kevin Sullivan & Maha Singh. PLUS: Hulk Hogan, Ted DiBiase.

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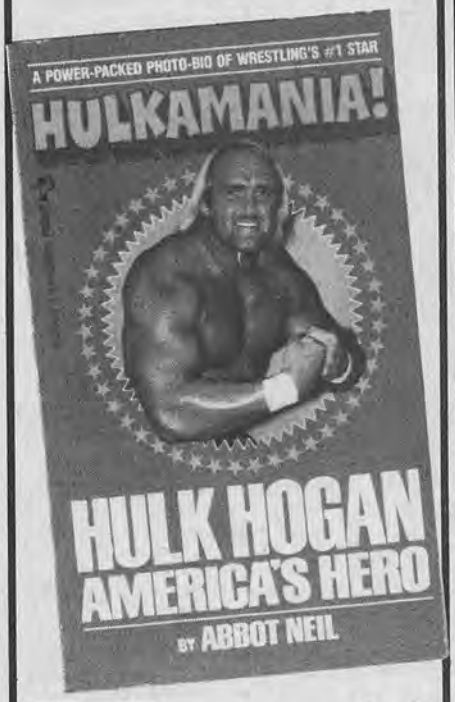

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 58)

championship ... Bob Roop sent a team of lawyers to NWA headquarters in an effort to have the figure-four leglock banned. The hold, applied on Roop in separate matches by Eddie and Mike Graham, kept Roop out of action for several months with ligament damage ... One of the most heralded tag teams of all time, Pat Patterson and Ray Stevens, reunited in an effort to take the Northern California tag team title from Invader I and Magnificent Muraco ... The referee was the unfortunate victim of an intense clash between WWF Champion Bruno Sammartino and number one contender Superstar Graham at the Nassau Coliseum on Long Island. In the height of the melee, both wrestlers disposed of the "bothersome" referee, drawing a double-disqualification when the official regained consciousness ... Wahoo McDaniel defeated Paul Jones in the final round of a tournament in Richmond, Virginia. Wahoo received a brand new Cadillac for his victory, but he had regrets. "I didn't want to win this way," Wahoo said. "Paul is my friend and I hated wrestling him" ... Japanese star Antonio Inoki wrestle/boxed heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali to a draw in Tokyo. On the same night, Andre the Giant easily disposed of heavyweight contender Chuck Wepner at New York's Shea Stadium ... Bruiser and Crusher spilled a lot of blood but retained their AWA tag team title against Bobby Duncum and Blackjack Lanza ... Andre the Giant won critical acclaim for his performance as "Bigfoot" on TV's *Six Million Dollar Man.* It was feared at the time that Andre would leave wrestling for the glamour of Hollywood. NWA RATINGS: 1—Terry Funk; 2—Dusty Rhodes; 3—Jack Brisco; 4—Billy Robinson; 5—Blackjack Mulligan; 6—Paul Jones; 7—Fritz Von Erich; 8—Dory Funk Jr.; 9—Jerry Lawler; 10—Mark Lewin. WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Stan Hansen; 3—Superstar Graham; 4—Ivan Koloff; 5—Ivan Putski; 6—Bobo Brazil; 7—Ernie Ladd; 8—Skandor Akbar; 9—Haystacks Calhoun; 10—Dominic DeNucci. AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Verne Gagne; 3—Larry Hennig; 4—Jos LeDuc; 5—Pampero Firpo; 6—Bobby Duncum; 7—Baron Von Raschke; 8—Blackjack

(Continued on page 62)

Muhammad Ali dances away from Antonio Inoki during the fourth round of their "world martial arts championship" match in Tokyo. The bout would end in a dull 15-round draw.

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 60)

Lanza; 9—Mad Dog Vachon; 10—Greg Gagne. TAG TEAMS: 1—Ole & Gene Anderson; 2—The Masked Executioners; 3—Bruiser & Crusher; 4—Bob Orton Sr. & Bob Orton Jr.; 5—The Mongols; 6—Louis Cerdan & Tony Parisi; 7—Johnny & Jimmy Valiant; 8—Superstar Graham & Ivan Koloff; 9—Les Thornton & Tony Charles; 10—Magnificent Muraco & Invader I.

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THE NWA TITLE changed hands three times over a period of two months. On April 27, Young Tommy Rich stunned Harley Race in Augusta, Georgia, winning the World title in 27:22. Rich would only hold the belt until May 1, however, when the veteran Race regained the belt in 19:55 in Gainsville, Georgia. For Race, it was the beginning of his sixth NWA title reign, tying the mark set by Lou Thesz in 1963. Race's reign would last only until June 21, when Dusty Rhodes began his second NWA title reign with a 16:55 victory in Atlanta ... In a highly controversial move, Nick Bockwinkel, the AWA's number one contender, was handed the AWA World championship after Verne Gagne's retirement ... More than 10 years after his WWF title victory over Bruno Sammartino, Ivan Koloff proved that he still had a lot left when he defeated Rick Steamboat for the Mid-Atlantic championship ... Ole and Gene Anderson captured the NWA World tag team championship from Masked Superstar and Paul Jones ... Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell recaptured the AWA World tag team title from Adrian Adonis and Jesse Ventura ... Magnificent Muraco topped Pedro Morales for the WWF Intercontinen-

(Continued on page 64)

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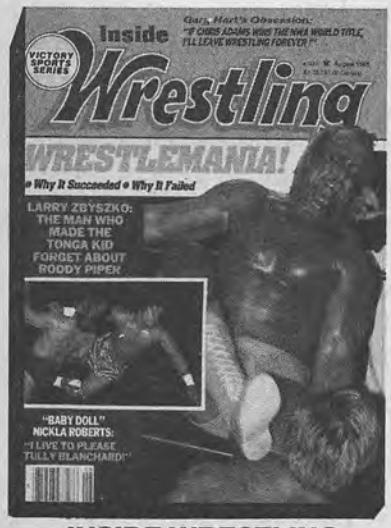

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 62)

tal title ... Steve O and Ted DiBiase upset The Freebirds for the Georgia tag team belts, and rumors began to circulate about a possible split between the 'Birds ... Barry Windham began to wrestle under the name Blackjack Mulligan Jr. ... Andre the Giant had his ankle broken in a vicious attack by Killer Khan ... It was a bad period for the Von Erichs, as Kerry lost his American title to Ernie Ladd, David dropped the Texas title to Killer Brooks, and Fritz Von Erich was banned from ringside for alleged interference on behalf of his sons ... Rick Morton and Eddie Gilbert won the Tri-State tag team belts in Oklahoma ... The Samoans, advised by Ernie Ladd, captured the North American tag team belts from Junkyard Dog and Dick Murdoch ... Lord Al Hays managed Mid-Atlantic tag team champions Chris Markoff and Nikolai Volkoff ... The NWA junior heavyweight minimum was raised from 210 to 230 pounds. WWF RATINGS: 1—Bob Backlund; 2—Magnificent Muraco; 3—Angelo Mosca; 4—George Steele; 5—Mil Mascaras; 6—Killer Khan; 7—Greg Valentine; 8—Pedro Morales; 9—Pat Patterson; 10—Rick Martel. NWA RATINGS: 1—Dusty Rhodes; 2—Harley Race; 3—Roddy Piper; 4—Ken Patera; 5—Dory Funk Jr.; 6—Ivan Koloff; 7—Ted DiBiase; 8—Tommy Rich; 9—Ric Flair; 10—Mr. Wrestling II. AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Baron Von Raschke; 3—Dino Bravo; 4—Tito Santana; 5—Greg Gagne; 6—The Crusher; 7—John Studd; 8—Crusher Blackwell; 9—Jim Brunzell; 10—Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie. TAG TEAMS: 1—Ole & Gene Anderson; 2—The Moondogs; 3—Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell; 4—Ted DiBiase & Steve O; 5—The Assassins; 6—Dick Murdoch & Junkyard Dog; 7—Nikolai Volkoff & Chris Markoff; 8—The Samoans; 9—Gino Hernandez & Tully Blanchard; 10—Eddie Gilbert & Rick Morton. ☐

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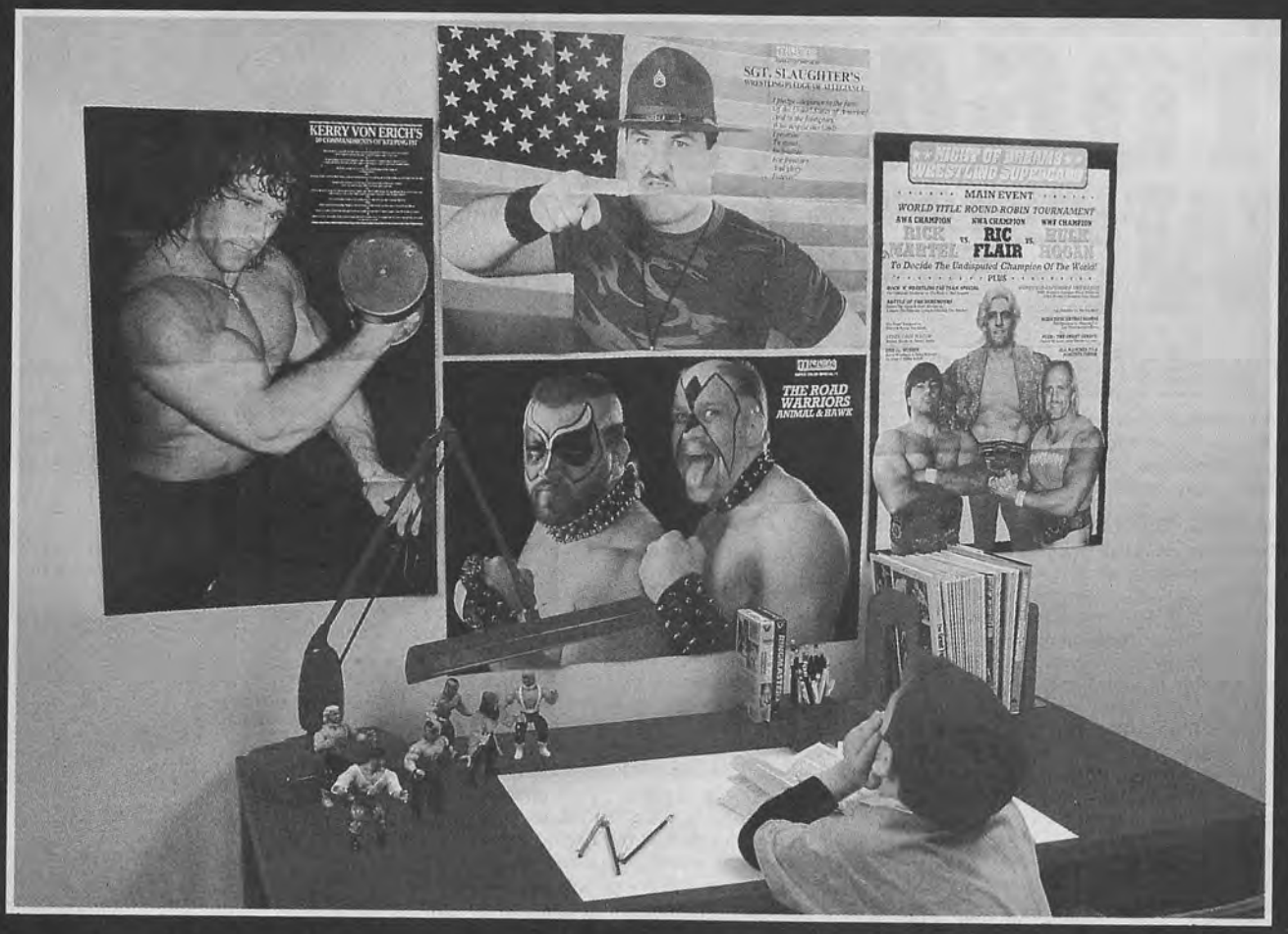

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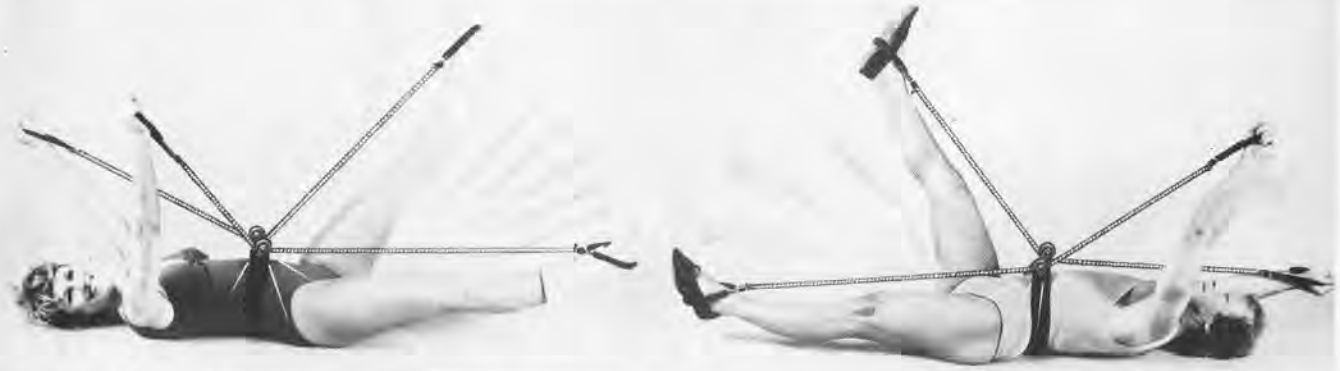

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The scientific reason for this amazing result was later explained to me. It's called SYNOTENSION™—meaning that when you combine the method of synchronizing the tension-generating power of arms + legs—you get a greater muscle toning power than either of them separately—and much faster too! Using the principle of SYNOTENSION™, I designed the **BELLY BLASTER™** specially constructed to employ this amazing principle of body dynamics. And boy, does it work . . . it virtually "blasts away" at weak, belly fat and flab to sculpture a midsection that you can't wait to "show off" at the beach . . . and in just five fun minutes a day—not hours of exhausting, strenuous workouts. In addition to reshaping and toning your body, a FREE accompanying easy to follow diet plan will help speed up weight loss, if weight loss is one of your objectives, to speed away ugly, embarrassing fat & flab.

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